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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Secretary General

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* A/52/150 and Corr.1

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/53 of 11 December 1995, entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to follow up closely the implementation of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (resolution 49/60, annex) and to submit an annual report on the implementation of paragraph 10 of that Declaration, taking into account the modalities set out in his report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session (A/50/372 and Add.1) and the views expressed by States in the debate of the Sixth Committee during that session.

2. In paragraph 10 of the Declaration, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assist in the implementation of the Declaration by taking, within existing resources, the following practical measures to enhance international cooperation:

> "(a) A collection of data on the status and implementation of existing multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements relating to international terrorism, including information on incidents caused by international terrorism and criminal prosecutions and sentencing, based on information received from the depositaries of those agreements and from Member States;
>
> "(b) A compendium of national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, based on information received from Member States;
>
> "(c) An analytical review of existing international legal instruments relating to international terrorism, in order to assist States in identifying aspects of this matter that have not been covered by such instruments and could be addressed to develop further a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism;
>
> "(d) A review of existing possibilities within the United Nations system for assisting States in organizing workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism."

3. By a note dated 31 March 1997, the Secretary-General drew the attention of all States to the Declaration and requested them to submit by 30 June 1997 information on its implementation under paragraph 10 (a) and (b) thereof. By a letter of the same date, relevant specialized agencies and other organizations were also invited to submit by 30 June 1997 information or other relevant material on the implementation of the Declaration pursuant to its paragraph 10 (a) and (d).

4. As at 22 August 1997, replies had been received from Argentina, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Israel, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Norway, the Republic of Korea, San Marino and Tunisia, and from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

5. Sections II, III and IV of the present report contain information about measures taken at the national and international levels, which is based on materials transmitted by Governments and the international organizations mentioned in paragraph 4 above. Section V refers to the matter of publishing a compendium of national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

6. With respect to paragraph 10 (c) of the Declaration, the present report does not contain an analytical review of existing international legal instruments relating to international terrorism, since such a review was included in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the fifty-first session of the Assembly, which also contained several suggestions for possible further action (A/51/336, paras. 6-36).

II. Measures taken at the national and international levels regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism and information on incidents caused by international terrorism

A. Information received from Member States*

7. **Argentina** reported that its national legislation in force on the subject consisted of Act No. 24,530, concerning an Agreement between the Government of the Argentine Republic and the Government of the Italian Republic on combating terrorism, drug trafficking and corruption; Act No. 24,809/97, concerning a Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Argentine Republic and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on combating the illicit smuggling of drugs and psychotropic substances, international terrorism and organized crime; and Act No. 24,059 on domestic security, regulated by Decree No. 1273/92.

8. Argentina has concluded a cooperation agreement against drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorist activities with Italy (1992), which was approved by the National Congress on 9 August 1995, with Turkey (1995), which entered into force on 29 May 1997, and with Israel (1996), which is in the process of being approved at the legislative level.

9. With regard to measures adopted at the administrative level, the Ministry of the Interior, the body with primary responsibility for domestic security issues, has signed various understandings with similar bodies in other States for the purpose of establishing mechanisms for mutual exchange of information and experience regarding the prevention and suppression of terrorist acts.

10. Furthermore, the Ministry has signed with its counterparts in Brazil and Paraguay an understanding to coordinate controls in the "triple border" zone (Puerto Iguazú-Foz do Iguaçú-Ciudad del Este). This agreement provides for a computerized exchange of information between the security bodies at that tripartite point, which is particularly sensitive because of the constant traffic of persons and goods in that section of the border.

11. **Bangladesh** indicated that it had taken measures to prevent transborder terrorism, including trafficking of women and children, by establishing joint working groups between Bangladesh and India.

12. **Burkina Faso** provided information regarding relevant articles of its Penal Code.[1]

13. **Denmark** reported that during the past year no incidents that were for certain related to international terrorism had taken place.

14. However, on 17 January 1995, at the request of the English right-wing extremist group Combat 18, a Danish right-wing extremist attempted to mail three letter bombs to three different postal addresses in London. One postal address was that of a violent left-wing extremist organization, another that of a woman married to a coloured man. The third letter bomb was addressed to a Combat 18 sympathizer as part of an internal settling of scores. The Danish police authorities had the right-wing extremist under surveillance as he first went to an apartment in Copenhagen, where the letter bombs were prepared, then to Malmø, Sweden, where the letter bombs were posted in a letter box. The Swedish police authorities were informed and subsequently disarmed the three letter bombs, which had been built into video cassettes and turned out to be operational. Technical examinations of the letter bombs showed that a possible explosion would have been limited to detonation of the initiation device. The three principals in the case have been detained for trial.

15. Denmark also indicated that, during the past year, no new legislation had been adopted in this area.

16. **Estonia** stated that its legal system did not contain specific rules and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. Individual acts of terrorism were liable for prosecution and punishment in accordance with the Estonian Criminal Code of 1902, paragraphs 64 and 65.

17. Estonia was a party to the following regional multilateral treaties:[2] the European Convention on Extradition and its Additional Protocol 2 (both ratified on 19 February 1997); the European Convention on Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters and its Additional Protocol (both ratified on 19 February 1997); the European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (ratified on 19 February 1997); and the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ratified on 26 February 1997).

18. **Fiji** provided information on relevant legislation, in particular Part IX of the Penal Code, the Fiji Intelligence Service Decree of 1990, the Civil Aviation (Security) Act of 1994 and the Civil Aviation (Security) Regulations of 1994.[3]

* Information on the participation of States in multilateral agreements relating to international terrorism is presented separately in section III.

19. **Israel** reported that it strongly believed that peace and terrorism could not be reconciled. The Middle East peace process had made significant progress, especially since the Madrid conference of October 1991. That process, however, had been threatened by ongoing acts of terrorism. Peace negotiations could not be advanced when a negotiating party engaged in, supported or tolerated acts of terror. The Government of Israel was convinced that effective action both against terrorism as well as for the advancement of peace could best be achieved through determined and concerted international efforts.

20. In accordance with the above principles, Israel participated in the International Summit of Peacemakers held at Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 13 March 1996. Israel strongly supported the efforts of that summit's co-chairmen, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and President Bill Clinton of the United States of America. The international Summit had placed special emphasis on regional cooperation in the Middle East. In that context, the Government of Israel wished to draw the Secretary-General's attention to the final statement of the above-mentioned Summit (A/51/91-S/1996/238, annex). That document was indicative of the long-lasting commitment of the participants at the Summit to the struggle against terrorism, on the one hand, and to the advancement of the peace process, on the other. Convinced that strong regional cooperation and coordination could lead to significant progress in the struggle to eliminate terrorism, it fully supported this approach.

21. Concerning the implementation of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, Israel submitted the following information:

(a) Regarding the Middle East peace process

(i) Within the framework of the peace process, Israel and the PLO had signed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993 (A/48/486-S/26560, annex). On 9 September 1993, in connection with the Declaration of Principles, the Chairman of the PLO wrote the following to the Prime Minister of Israel:

"The PLO considers that the signing of the Declaration of Principles constitutes a historic event, inaugurating a new epoch of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and all other acts which endanger peace and stability. Accordingly, the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators";

(ii) Subsequent to the signing of the Declaration of Principles, Israel and the PLO signed the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995 (A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex);*

* Article XV of that Agreement states:

"Both sides shall take all measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime and hostilities directed against each other, against individuals falling under the other's authority and against their property, and shall take legal measures against offenders."

Article II, annex I, of the same Agreement states:

"1. The Palestinian security policy as defined by the Palestinian Authority on March 9, 1995, for the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area will also be implemented in the rest of the West Bank in areas which come under Palestinian security responsibility as follows:

"A. The Palestinian police is the only Palestinian security authority.

"B. The Palestinian police will act systematically against all expressions of violence and terror.

"C. The Council will issue permits in order to legalize the possession and carrying of arms by civilians. Any illegal arms will be confiscated by the Palestinian police.

"D. The Palestinian police will arrest and prosecute individuals who are suspected of perpetrating acts of violence and terror.

"2. Both sides will, in accordance with this agreement, act to ensure the immediate, efficient and effective handling of any incident involving a threat or act of terrorism, violence or incitement, whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis. To this end, they will cooperate in the exchange of information and coordinate policies and activities. Each side shall immediately and effectively respond to the occurrence or anticipated occurrence of an act of terrorism, violence or incitement and shall take necessary measures to prevent such occurrence.

"With a view to implementing the above, each side shall, in accordance with provisions of this agreement, carry out the following functions in the areas under its security responsibility:

"a. Protect all residents of and all other persons present in these areas;

"b. Actively prevent incitement to violence, including violence against the other side or persons under the authority of the other side.

"c. Apprehend, investigate and prosecute perpetrators and all other persons directly or indirectly involved in acts of terrorism, violence and incitement; and

"d. Prevent and deal with any attempt to cause damage or harm to infrastructure serving the other side, including, *inter alia*, roads, water, electricity, telecommunications and sewage infrastructure."

(b) As to the implementation of multilateral agreements, the conventions concerning security of air navigation and suppression of unlawful acts against civil aviation and airport security are implemented by Israel in its legal system in accordance with the Air Navigation (Offences and Jurisdiction) Law, 5731-1971 and the Air Navigation (Security in Civil Aviation) Law, 5737-1977;[3]

(c) Concerning other national laws and regulations as well as bilateral agreements regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism

(i) Pursuant to legislation in force, the Israeli Defence Minister may declare any group of people an "unlawful association". Such a declaration must be founded on facts showing that a certain organization is instigating or provoking violence against the Government, encouraging hatred of the Government or destruction of government property or encouraging the commission of acts of terror. A person is entitled to appeal to the High Court of Justice against such a declaration by the Minister of Defence;

(ii) Israel has entered into agreements on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism and other serious crimes with Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Turkey and Ukraine; negotiations are also being conducted with Argentina. Those agreements contain the following article:

> "In the fight against terrorism, the contracting parties shall cooperate in the exchange of information and experience regarding the security measures taken for the protection of the public. The cooperation in terrorism matters shall be conducted by the police authorities of the contracting parties through their relevant units."

22. **Mauritius** provided information on national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of terrorism, in particular, the Civil Aviation (Hijacking and other Offences) Act 1985 (Act 33 of 1985) of 26 April 1985; the Explosives Act (RL 2/6/87) of 12 December 1959; sections 58, 59, 60, 61, 65, 66, 68, 102 and 102A of the Criminal Code (Supplementary Act); and the Firearms Act (RL 2/751) of 14 December 1940.

23. **Norway** indicated that its legal system did not contain specific rules and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism. Individual acts of terrorism were liable for prosecution and punishment in accordance with the Norwegian Civil Penal Code of 1902.

24. The **Republic of Korea** provided information on national legislation, namely, the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, the Safety of Aircraft Operation Act (Act No. 2742 of 26 December 1974) and the Atomic Energy Act (amended by Laws Nos. 3549 of 1 April 1982, 3850 of 12 May 1986, 4541 of 6 March 1993 and 4940 of 5 January 1995).[3]

25. **San Marino** reported that it had no laws or legal texts on the matter.

26. **Tunisia** stated that it would accede in the near future to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf.

27. Tunisia supported the adoption of a comprehensive international convention in the fight against terrorism. This view was shared by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which, in the final documents of the Conference of Heads of State or Government held at Cartagena, Colombia, in 1995, and of the Ministerial Conference held at New Delhi in 1997, had requested the urgent conclusion and effective implementation of a comprehensive international convention in the fight against terrorism.

28. Tunisia had worked at the regional level with the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for the adoption, in 1993, of a code of conduct concerning the fight against terrorism. It had introduced a draft code of conduct for inter-African relations, which had been adopted in Tunis in 1994 during the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and in which the African countries had condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practices and had pledged to increase their cooperation with a view to eliminating that scourge. In addition, a draft code of conduct in that area, with which Tunisia was associated, was being considered by the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior.

29. At the bilateral level, Tunisia stated that it had concluded agreements with Greece, Kuwait and Spain on judicial cooperation and extradition in criminal matters. Those agreements included provisions that, for extradition purposes, excluded acts of terrorism from the exception made for political offences.

30. At the national level, Tunisia stated that it adopted Acts Nos. 93-112 and 93-113 of 22 November 1993 to incorporate the crime of terrorism into the national Penal Code.[4]

31. Tunisia further reported that, between 1980 and 1995, acts of terrorism had been committed in Tunisia by small

groups on the pretext of religion, professed hatred, violence and extremism. Those acts had targeted public buildings and caused material damage and the loss of human lives. In addition, Tunisian government services had discovered weapons-trafficking operations at the national border that were linked to the activities of those groups. The perpetrators had been apprehended and tried in the Tunisian courts, in accordance with ordinary law.

B. Information received from international organizations

32. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) noted that, while the number of incidents of unlawful interference with civil aviation fluctuated from year to year, one could discern a trend in that the number of incidents was declining in the 1990s as compared with the 1980s. The Council of ICAO, at the fourth meeting of its 150th session, on 28 February 1997, examined the subject of acts of unlawful interference that had occurred in 1996, as contained in the relevant report of the Committee on Unlawful Interference. The Council noted that 14 acts of unlawful interference that had occurred in 1996 had been officially reported or confirmed by concerned States. In addition, it was known to ICAO and other international organizations that during that reporting period seven other incidents had also occurred. In order to provide a realistic basis for the comprehensive analysis of acts of unlawful interference for 1996, all 21 acts had been taken into consideration. Following a request by the Council, the report was expanded to include recommendations arising from the analysis. The Council had decided that the information obtained from the occurrences for the year 1996 should be communicated to the security authorities of contracting States to the Convention on International Civil Aviation on a confidential basis.

33. On 12 November 1996, the Council adopted Amendment 9 to Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation containing International Standards and Recommended Practices for Safeguarding International Civil Aviation against Acts of Unlawful Interference, which became effective on 31 March 1997 and applicable on 1 August 1997. The amendment introduced new provisions in relation to pre-employment checks and capabilities of persons engaged in implementing security controls, baggage accountability and authorization; measures to be applied to catering supplies and operators' stores and supplies, tests for programme effectiveness and need for notification to the State of known or presumed destination of aircraft under a seized condition.

34. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported that, within the framework of its transdisciplinary project "Towards a Culture of Peace", it had organized a variety of activities and training programmes that had contributed to the progressive elimination of the causes of international terrorism. The Director-General had been invited to continue work on identifying the constitutional elements of the human right to peace and to prepare a draft declaration that could be approved by the General Conference on the eve of 1998, the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One of the elements of the proposed declaration would be the rejection of violence in all its forms.[5]

35. The Organization of American States (OAS) reported that a meeting of government experts to examine ways to improve the exchange of information and other measures for cooperation among member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism had been held in Washington, D.C. on 5 and 6 May 1997.[6] The following issues were discussed during the meeting: analysis of the means currently used to exchange information among OAS member States in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism; criteria and measures for improving and modernizing the methods currently used to exchange information; evaluation of cooperation with regard to police and intelligence matters; criteria used to improve cooperation regarding traffic in arms and equipment that could be used by terrorists; training of officials; cooperation for the prevention of terrorist acts and arrest of alleged perpetrators in border areas.

36. On 5 June 1997, the General Assembly of OAS adopted a resolution entitled "Hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism",[7] the text of which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Having seen* the report of the Permanent Council on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism (AG/doc.3490/97/Corr.2),
>
> "*Recalling* resolution AG/RES.1399 (XXVI-0/96), requesting the Permanent Council to consider convening a meeting of government experts to examine ways to improve the exchange of information and other measures for cooperation among the member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism,

"*Taking account* of the Declaration and the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, adopted during the Specialized Inter-American Conference on Terrorism held at Lima in 1996,

"*Bearing in mind*:

"That through resolution CP/RES.700(1108/97) the Permanent Council convened that meeting of government experts and approved its agenda; and

"That the meeting of Government experts was held in Washington, D.C., on 5 and 6 May 1997; and

"*Considering* that among the measures recommended in the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism is the follow-up, within the framework of the Organization of American States, of progress made in implementing that Plan of Action, 'promotion of the prompt signing, ratification of and/or accession to international agreements related to terrorism, in accordance with their respective national legislation,' and commencement, 'in the framework of the Organization of American States and in the light of an evaluation of existing international instruments, of a study on the need for and desirability of a new inter-American convention on terrorism',

"*Resolves*:

"1. To reiterate the importance of the Declaration and the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, adopted during the Specialized Inter-American Conference on Terrorism, held at Lima in 1996;

"2. To reiterate also that the rule of international law, full respect for human rights and basic freedoms, respect for the sovereignty of States, the principle of non-intervention and strict observance of the rights and duties of States enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States constitute the overall framework for preventing, combating and eliminating terrorism;

"3. To reiterate further its strongest condemnation of all forms of terrorism, by whatever agent and in whatever form, and to repudiate the serious consequences of these acts, which, as pointed out at the Summit of the Americas, 'constitute a systematic and deliberate violation of individual rights';

"4. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council on hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism and, in particular, to express its satisfaction with the results of the Meeting of Government Experts to Examine Ways of Improving the Exchange of Information and Other Cooperation Measures among Member States in order to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, held in Washington, D.C., on 5 and 6 May 1997;

"5. To instruct the Permanent Council to study the recommendations and proposals made at that Meeting of Government Experts and, in particular, the proposal on the establishment of a directory of competencies, aimed at improving cooperation among member States in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism;

"6. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to consider appropriate means and mechanisms for follow-up to the measures recommended in the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, and to submit a report on progress and results achieved to the General Assembly at its next regular session;

"7. To urge member States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and/or accede to, in accordance with their domestic laws, the international conventions related to terrorism mentioned in resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 of the United Nations General Assembly;

"8. To instruct the Inter-American Juridical Committee to continue its study of the topic 'inter-American cooperation to confront terrorism' in the light of the documents adopted at the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism held at Lima."

37. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) reported that, with regard to the implementation of the SAARC Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, five Member States had completed the process of enactment of enabling legislation, while the remaining two member States were taking the necessary steps to complete the process.

38. It was also reported that the fourth annual meeting of liaison officers for exchange of information on the suppression of terrorism was expected to be held at Male during 1997. Moreover, the SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk established at Colombo had been doing very useful work in collecting data and dissemination of information among Member States.

39. Following the observations made by the Heads of State or Government at the Eighth SAARC Summit, a mechanism had been developed for all top officials of police

departments to meet annually since 1996, exchange information and evolve ways and means to further strengthen regional cooperation in the area of suppression of terrorism. The First Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters was held at Colombo from 29 to 31 July 1996. The Conference made several recommendations, including (a) strengthening of two desks, namely, the Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk and the Drug Offences Monitoring Desk; (b) nominating a contact officer(s) for the purpose of communicating information with regard to organized crime and drug-related crimes; (c) sharing of expertise, especially with regard to the different areas of police investigation and investigation of organized crime and drug-related crimes; and (d) greater interaction in the areas of training, especially with reference to professional police management, conflict resolution and stress management, in order to share the latest techniques available in the field and experience gained by each SAARC member State. The review of progress on all the above recommendations would be undertaken at the Second Conference, which was expected to be held in Male in September 1997.

III. International legal instruments related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism

A. Status of international conventions pertaining to international terrorism

40. Currently, there are 13 global or regional treaties pertaining to the subject of international terrorism. (Each instrument listed below is represented by the letter shown on the left, which is featured in the tables that follow to reflect the status of that instrument.)

A Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963 (entered into force on 4 December 1969, in accordance with article 21, paragraph (1)): status as at 18 June 1997.

B Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970 (entered into force on 14 October 1971): status as at 4 June 1997.

C Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, concluded at Montreal on 23 September 1971 (entered into force on 26 January 1973): status as at 4 June 1997.

D Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1973 (entered into force on 20 February 1977, in accordance with article 17 (a)): status as at 30 July 1997.

E International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 1979 (entered into force on 3 June 1983, in accordance with article 18 (1)): status as at 30 July 1997.

F Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, signed at Vienna on 3 March 1980 (entered into force on 8 February 1987, in accordance with article 19, paragraph 1): status as at 4 July 1997.

G Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988 (entered into force on 6 August 1989, in accordance with article VI, paragraph 1): status as at 13 May 1997.

H Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on 10 March 1988 (entered into force on 1 March 1992): status as at 4 July 1997.

I Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on 10 March 1988 (entered into force on 1 March 1992): status as at 4 July 1997.

J Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, done at Montreal on 1 March 1991): status as at 30 May 1997.

K European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, concluded at Strasbourg on 27 January 1977 (to enter into force on 4 August 1978): status as at 3 July 1997.

L Convention to Prevent and Punish Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes Against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance, concluded at Washington, D.C., on 2 February 1971 (entered into force on 16 October 1973): status as at 18 August 1997.

M SAARC Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, signed at Kathmandu on 4 November 1987 (to enter into force on 22 August 1988): status as at 27 May 1997.

Table 1
Total participation in international conventions pertaining to international terrorism

Signature												
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
41	77	60	26	40	45[a]	69	41	39	50	29	17	–
Ratification, accession or succession												
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
161	163	164	94	79	57[a]	72	33	31	29	29	12	7

[a] Includes EURATOM, which is not listed in table 2.

Table 2
Status of participation in international conventions pertaining to international terrorism

	Signature												*Ratification, accession or succession*											
State	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*	*J*	*K*	*L*	*M*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*	*J*	*K*	*L*	*M*
Afghanistan		B								J				A	B	C										
Albania																										
Algeria														A	B	C		E		G			J			
Andorra																										
Angola																										
Antigua and Barbuda														A	B	C	D	E	F							
Argentina		B	C			F	G	H	I	J				A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H					
Armenia																	D		F							
Australia		B	C	D		F								A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I				
Austria		B	C		E	F	G	H			K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		K		
Azerbaijan																										
Bahamas								H	I					A	B	C	D	E								
Bahrain														A	B	C				G			J			
Bangladesh														A	B	C										M
Barbados	A	B	C											A	B	C	D	E			H	I				
Belarus		B	C	D			G	H	I	J				A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Belgium	A	B	C		E	F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C			F					K		
Belize										J																
Benin		B													B										
Bhutan														A	B	C	D	E								M
Bolivia					E					J				A	B	C										
Bosnia and Herzegovina														A	B	C	D	E		G						
Botswana			C											A	B	C										

	Signature												*Ratification, accession or succession*											
State	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*	*J*	*K*	*L*	*M*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*	*J*	*K*	*L*	*M*
Brazil	A	B	C			F	G	H	I	J				A	B	C			F	G						
Brunei Darussalam								H	I					A	B	C		E								
Bulgaria		B	C	D		F	G	H	I	J				A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Burkina Faso	A													A	B	C										
Burundi		B	C											A			D									
Cambodia		B												A	B	C				G						
Cameroon							G							A	B	C	D	E								
Canada	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J				A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J			
Cape Verde														A	B	C										
Central African Republic														A	B	C				G						
Chad		B	C											A	B	C										
Chile		B			E		G	H	I	J		L		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I				
China							G	H	I					A	B	C	D	E	F		H	I				
Colombia	A	B								J		L		A	B	C	D								L	
Comoros														A	B	C										
Congo (Republic of the)	A		C				G							A	B	C										
Cook Islands																										
Costa Rica		B	C				G	H	I	J		L		A	B	C	D								L	
Côte d'Ivoire							G			J				A	B	C		E								
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Cuba																										
Cyprus			C								K			A	B	C	D	E						K		
Czech Republic											K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G			J	K		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea							G							A	B	C	D									
Democratic Republic of the Congo					E		G							A	B	C	D									
Denmark	A	B	C	D		F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		K		
Djibouti														A	B	C										
Dominica																		E								
Dominican Republic		B	C		E	F						L		A	B	C	D								L	
Ecuador	A	B		D		F		H	I	J		L		A	B	C	D	E	F				J			
Egypt			C		E		G	H	I	J				A	B	C	D	E			H	I	J			
El Salvador		B			E							L		A	B	C	D	E							L	
Equatorial Guinea		B												A	B	C										
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Finland	A	B		D	E	F	G	H		J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F					K		
France	A	B				F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C			F	G	H	I	J	K		
Gabon		B	C		E		G			J				A	B	C	D									
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Germany	A	B	C	D	E	F	G			J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		K		
Ghana		B					G			J				A	B	C	D	E								
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Ireland	A					F	G				K			A	B	C			F	G				K		
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Italy	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		K		
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Lesotho					E									A	B	C		E								
Liberia	A				E		G	H	I						B	C	D				H	I				
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya														A	B	C				G						
Liechtenstein		B				F					K						D	E	F	G				K		
Lithuania											K			A	B	C			F	G			J	K		
Luxembourg		B	C		E	F	G				K			A	B	C		E	F					K		
Madagascar	A									J				A	B	C										
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Marshall Islands							G							A	B	C				G	H	I				
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New Zealand		B	C		E		G	H	I					A	B	C	D	E								
Nicaragua			C	D						J		L		A	B	C	D								L	
Niger	A	B	C			F	G							A	B	C	D									
Nigeria	A							H	I					A	B	C										
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Oman														A	B	C	D	E		G	H	I				
Pakistan	A	B					G			J				A	B	C	D									M

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Palau														A	B	C				G						
Panama	A	B	C		E	F						L		A	B	C	D	E		G			J		L	
Papua New Guinea														A	B	C										
Paraguay		B	C	D		F								A	B	C	D		F							
Peru							G			J		L		A	B	C	D		F	G			J		L	
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Republic of Korea	A					F	G			J				A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Republic of Moldova															B	C										
Romania		B	C	D		F	G				K			A	B	C	D	E	F		H	I		K		
Russian Federation		B	C	D		F	G	H	I	J				A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Rwanda		B	C	D										A	B	C	D									
Saint Kitts and Nevis																		E								
Saint Lucia														A	B	C				G						
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines							G							A	B	C				G						
Samoa																										
San Marino																										
Sao Tome and Principe																										
Saudi Arabia	A						G	H	I					A	B	C		E		G			J			
Senegal	A	B	C		E		G			J				A	B	C		E								
Seychelles								H	I					A	B	C	D				H	I				
Sierra Leone		B												A	B	C										
Singapore		B	C											A	B	C				G						
Slovakia											K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G			J	K		
Slovenia														A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Solomon Islands														A		C										
Somalia																										
South Africa		B	C			F								A	B	C										
Spain	A	B	C			F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K		
Sri Lanka							G							A	B	C	D			G						M
Sudan															B	C	D	E								
Suriname					E									A	B	C		E								
Swaziland																										
Sweden		A	B		D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		K		

State	Signature													Ratification, accession or succession											
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Switzerland	A	B	C		E	F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K		
Syrian Arab Republic														A	B	C	D									
Tajikistan														A	B	C			F	G						
Thailand		B												A	B	C				G						
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia														A		C			F	G						
Togo					E		G			J				A	B	C	D	E		G						
Tonga															B	C										
Trinidad and Tobago		B	C									L		A	B	C	D	E			H	I				
Tunisia				D										A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Turkey		B	C			F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G			J	K		
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Uganda					E									A	B	C				G						
Ukraine		B	C	D			G	H	I	J				A	B	C	D	E	F		H	I				
United Arab Emirates							G							A	B	C				G			J			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K		
United Republic of Tanzania														A	B	C										
United States of America	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J		L		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J		L	
Uruguay												L		A	B	C	D								L	
Uzbekistan														A	B	C				G						
Vanuatu														A	B	C										
Venezuela	A	B	C				G					L		A	B	C		E							L	
Viet Nam														A	B	C										
Yemen			C											A	B	C	D									
Yugoslavia	A	B	C	D	E	F	G							A	B	C	D	E	F	G						
Zambia														A	B	C							J			
Zimbabwe														A	B	C										

B. Recent developments related to General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996

41. The General Assembly, by its resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, decided to establish an ad hoc committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of IAEA, to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and, subsequently, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, to supplement related existing international instruments, and thereafter to address means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism. The Ad Hoc Committee held its first session from 24 February to 7 March 1997 (see A/52/37). Work is expected to continue from 22 September to 3 October 1997, during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee.

IV. Information on workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism

42. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) reported that, consistent with its policy of according aviation security the highest priority in its work programme, it was developing a training programme for aviation security, which comprised a series of standardized training packages designed for global application. The purpose of the initiative was to provide States with the necessary training tools that would in turn assist them in developing the components of their national aviation security training programme.

43. Furthermore, in order to meet States' training requirements and to render assistance in the area of programme formulation, topic-focused seminars/workshops had been developed by ICAO and were being conducted in all ICAO regions under the mechanism for financial, technical and material assistance to States with regard to aviation security. In addition, ICAO had established several aviation security training facilities within existing civil aviation training centres in Dakar, Nairobi, Penang (Malaysia), Port-of-Spain and Quito. Approval was granted to establish a regional training institute in Brussels and regional/subregional facilities in Amman, Casablanca (Morocco), Kyiv and Moscow.

44. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat reported that, pursuant to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (see A/49/748, annex, sect. I.A), which emphasized the need for global action against organized transnational crime and expressed the concern of States about the links between organized crime and terrorist crimes, it was studying the links between transnational organized crime and terrorist crimes, their effects and appropriate means for countering them. The Division indicated that among the practical measures taken to enhance international cooperation, it had assisted States and Governments in the organization of workshops and training courses on organized crime and terrorism.

45. As a follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration, the Division had organized the Ministerial Workshop on Organized Crime and Corruption, held at Dakar in July 1997. The Workshop had focused on organized crime, corruption and terrorism. On that occasion, many countries had expressed particular concern about the threat posed by terrorism to their security, stability and development. Countries had also expressed support for the proposal of the Secretary-General to concentrate the activities of the United Nations against crime, drugs and terrorism in Vienna under a new structure.

46. In the context of technical cooperation activities, the Division provided training courses and seminars in the field on themes relating to crime prevention and criminal justice. Seminars and training courses have been provided to prosecutors, law enforcement officers, investigating judges and corrections officers. The Division also provided interregional advisers free of charge to those countries which requested assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

47. The Division participated in numerous international meetings and conferences dealing with organized crime and terrorism. At the invitation of the Government of a country much affected by terrorism, the Division had participated in a conference on terrorism addressing the problem of high-technology terrorism and its implications for essential services. Issues such as the impact of terrorism on essential services, public opinion and government policies, terrorist dynamics and structures and international cooperation for more effective action to combat terrorism were dealt with.

48. The dissemination of information on new forms of terrorism has been a priority for the Division. As a consequence, terrorism has been one of the main topics of several publications; articles, expert reports and contributions produced by the Division on international

terrorism and high-technology terrorism will be published by the Division and by other agencies of the United Nations system during 1997.

49. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) expressed its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in organizing relevant workshops and training courses.

V. Publication of a compendium of national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

50. As at 5 August 1997, the Secretary-General had received national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism from the Governments of the following States: Armenia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Norway, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The texts thus transmitted are available for consultation in the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs.

51. In order to prepare the compendium referred to in paragraph 10 (b) of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, the Secretariat would like to renew its request to those States which have not yet done so to submit information on their national laws and regulations.

Notes

[1] Texts are available for consultation in the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs. See also sect. V.

[2] See also sect. III.

[3] Texts of the relevant articles of the instruments are available for consultation in the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs. See also sect. V.

[4] Texts of the relevant articles of the Penal Code of Tunisia are available for consultation in the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs. See also sect. V.

[5] See the report of the Director-General of UNESCO on educational activities under the project "Towards a Culture of Peace", with elements for a draft provisional declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace (1 August 1997, sect. IV.B, para. 49).

[6] The full text of the report of the meeting of government experts is available for consultation in the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs.

[7] AG/doc. 3586/97.

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Fifty second session
Item 46 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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I. Introduction

1. The World Summit for Social Development was held at Copenhagen in March 1995, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, in which the Assembly decided to convene a summit at the level of heads of State or Government. The Summit adopted the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[1] and the Programme of Action,[2] which was endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995.

2. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/202 of 17 December 1996, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Secretary-General to report at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. It will be recalled that the Secretary-General submitted a report on the subject to the Assembly at its fifty-first session (A/51/348). The present report contains selective information on initiatives/activities that have taken place since the issuance of that report, bearing in mind that many of the initiatives and recommendations contained in the previous report are of a continuing nature. It should also be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General on the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/52/315) which is also before the Assembly at the current session.

II. Overview of follow-up activities initiated in 1997

A. Initiatives of national Governments

3. Heads of State and Government have recognized that social development and the implementation of the commitments made at Copenhagen are primarily the responsibility of Governments, although international cooperation and assistance are essential for their full implementation. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 50/161 and 51/202, reiterated the Summit's call to Governments to define time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and enhancing social integration, within each national context; and to assess on a regular basis national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, possibly in the form of periodic national reports outlining successes, problems and obstacles, and to submit such information on a voluntary basis to the Commission for Social Development.

4. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/51/348), countries have provided additional information, both during the consideration of the item on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, and at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development, as well as by communications addressed to the Secretary-General. The information covers administrative arrangements set in place by Governments, such as designation of focal points and establishment of committees and commissions, as well as substantive measures such as elaboration of policies, formulation of programmes and organization of seminars, such as the Copenhagen seminars for social progress organized by Denmark, host Government of the Summit, to enrich the discourse and formulate common concepts and strategies on issues addressed by the Summit. This and other examples of national initiatives are set out in the annex to the present report.

5. With regard to regional follow-up, the General Assembly, at both its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, renewed the Summit's invitation to the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit.

6. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) organized the First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development at São Paulo from 6 to 9 April 1997. The Conference, which represented a continuation of the efforts made by the countries in the region to follow up on the commitments made at Copenhagen, was attended by States members of the Commission, observers from States Members of the United Nations, observer States of the United Nations, representatives from the United Nations Secretariat and organizations of the United Nations system, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as guests from all sectors of society. Participating countries presented reports on implementation of the commitments undertaken at the Summit; a ministerial round table was held on macroeconomic management and its impact on poverty; panel discussions were organized on the three core issues of the Summit; and the ECLAC secretariat presented a document entitled "The Equity Gap, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Social Summit", which contained a diagnostic analysis of the social situation in the countries of the region; a summary of the economic and social reforms under way in the region; and policy proposals for the attainment of the objectives of the Summit.

7. The Conference adopted the São Paulo Consensus, in which the ECLAC member countries renewed their commitment to actions required to achieve the objectives agreed upon in Copenhagen, and agreed, *inter alia*, to prioritize the issues on the social agenda and to ensure an appropriate allocation of resources in order to incorporate social equity into growth; guarantee that social development was a State priority that demanded not only appropriate government action but also the ongoing participation of civil society; intensify the complementarity between high, stable growth rates and human development; strengthening the role of social policies as State policies in the quest for higher levels of social equity and social integration; ensure integrated approaches to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development; and establish a regional information database of successful experiences in the field of social policy. Finally, the ECLAC member countries requested the secretariat of the Commission to convene a further meeting within two years to analyse the progress that had been made and the obstacles that remain as regards social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1997/56 of 23 July 1997, adopted at its substantive session of 1997, welcomed the convening of the meeting, expressed its appreciation for the São Paulo Consensus and invited other regions to convene their respective evaluation meetings on the Summit.

8 The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be convening the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development at Manila from 5 to 11 November 1997 to review national progress achieved and regional actions taken in the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region, in the context of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; and to consider means of accelerating the implementation of the regional Agenda at the national and regional levels.

9. In the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, the Government of Austria has decided to host an expert group meeting on employment questions in February 1998, as a follow-up to the Summit.

B. Mobilization of financial resources

10. In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly recognized that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action would require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels. In its resolution 51/202, the Assembly stressed the importance of encouraging national initiatives for social development, including, *inter alia*, credit for people living in poverty, particularly women, along the model of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in connection with self-employment and income generation to address the feminization of poverty, and noted with interest the micro credit summit to be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1997.

11. The Micro credit Summit was attended by over 2,000 persons from 137 countries. The Micro credit Summit Declaration launched a nine-year campaign for an effort to expand the reach of credit for self-employment and other financial and business services to 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, by the year 2005. The Summit also recognized that building institutions capable of providing micro finance services was only one of a broad range of strategies in eradicating poverty.

12. Immediately following the Micro credit Summit, a one-day meeting was held at the United Nations to discuss the link between access to credit and poverty eradication in Africa. United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations discussed how the improvement of access to credit could empower Africa's poor, particularly women, to become more active participants in the development process, thereby freeing themselves from poverty. The impact that access to micro credit could have on food security, women's economic empowerment, employment and self-employment, as well as provision of basic social services, were some of the topics discussed, and ways of linking the traditional banking systems to micro credit to facilitate access by the poor to credit were also examined.

13. With regard to the question of the impact of structural adjustment programmes on economic and social development, the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1997, welcomed the decision of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to make the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) a permanent facility. The Council, however, called for further efforts to ensure that internationally supported adjustment programmes, including ESAF-supported programmes, incorporate social safety measures and restructuring of public expenditure, including increases in expenditure related to primary education and primary health services, in line with the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development. The Council further stated that the speed and sequencing of these programmes and safeguards for social equity are critical for their success.

14. Also at the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General submitted a report on new and innovative ideas for generating funds for globally agreed commitments and priorities (A/52/203-E/1997/85). The report was prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and was based on the premise that the funds so generated should neither be viewed as a source for financing the regular budget nor the peacekeeping budget of the United Nations. It discusses public-private partnerships in mobilizing finance for achieving development objectives, and national charges and fees drawing particularly upon national experiences in the past few years in the area of environment protection. Specific recommendations were put forward for consideration by the Council. After holding deliberations, the Council, in its decision 1997/313 of 25 July 1997, took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

C. Other actions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997

15. At its high-level segment held from 2 to 4 July 1997, the Economic and Social Council carried out a comprehensive review of the theme "Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows, investment and trade". It had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/1997/67). The Council subsequently adopted agreed conclusions (see E/1997/L.56) on the subject which, *inter alia*, provided a framework for international cooperation and national policies and the role of the United Nations system. The conclusions also addressed policy issues, including the need for an international dialogue on issues of policy cohesion; the concern of marginalization faced by many developing countries, the least developed countries and vulnerable groups in the context of globalization of the world economy; the importance of reversing the overall decline in flows of official development assistance and of achieving internationally agreed official development assistance targets as soon as possible; the urgent need for effective and equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries; the importance of sound macroeconomic policies, which remain an essential ingredient to prevent volatility, particularly on international financial markets; the particular importance of growth in foreign direct investment in developing countries; and the need for an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system as a key element in fostering an enabling environment for development.

16. In the area of poverty eradication, the Council considered, at its substantive session of 1997, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1996 coordination segment of the Council on the coordination of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty (E/1997/58), and adopted resolution 1997/60 of 25 July 1997 on "Eradication of poverty", in which it reaffirmed that the goal of eradicating poverty in the world was an ethical, social, political and economic imperative; welcomed the steps already taken by the functional commissions, in particular the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, to implement the recommendations of the Council on the coordination of the multi-year programmes of the functional commissions related to poverty eradication; and decided to carry out in 1999 an overall review of the theme of poverty eradication in order to contribute to the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for the overall review of the Summit and to the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action.

17. The Council also adopted resolution 1997/61 of 25 July 1997 on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in which it, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the need to continue to ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and by providing clear policy guidance to them; and stressed the importance of ensuring that reports on conference follow-up submitted to the Council and its functional commissions draw on the experiences gained at all levels; it also stressed the need, for that purpose, of enhancing cooperation in the preparation of such reports between relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations funds and programmes.

D. United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations system

18. In the United Nations Secretariat, the responsibility of assisting in the implementation of the follow-up to the Summit and the servicing of the intergovernmental bodies involved rests with the newly created Department for Economic and Social Affairs. The Department is also entrusted with the role of focal point for the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. The Department will continue to work with all actors in social

development, including Governments, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the civil society in assisting in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. Initiatives such as organizing and participating in workshops and seminars, conducting research on themes addressed by the Summit, have been pursued and will intensify. At the same time, the Secretary-General continues his dialogue with heads of State and Government, inviting them to accelerate the momentum of implementing the commitments reached at Copenhagen and urging them to use sessions of the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as through the commissions, to report successes, problems and obstacles in the implementation of those commitments.

19. It will be recalled that three ad hoc inter-agency task forces (on basic social services for all; on employment and sustainable livelihoods; and on the enabling environment for social and economic development), as well as the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, were established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1995 to provide system-wide, coherent support to national actions, to follow up decisions of recent international conferences in the economic, social and related areas, including, specifically, the World Summit for Social Development.

20. Members of the Commission for Social Development had the opportunity to be informed of the work of these bodies by their respective chairpersons at the Commission's special session in 1996 and its thirty-fifth session in 1997. The Chairman's summaries of the two dialogues are set out in the respective reports of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council.[3] An account of the work of the inter-agency task forces and committee, including the elements particularly relevant to follow-up activities to the Summit, is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits (E/1997/73) submitted to the Council. In its resolution 1997/61 of 25 July 1997, the Council stressed the need for the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that there was effective inter-agency support to the work of the intergovernmental bodies dealing with conference follow-up, including the Council and its functional commissions, that there was regular updating and feedback on the incorporation of the work of the task forces at the country level; and that the Council should be kept fully informed of the work and decisions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination concerning integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

21. UNDP continues to assist countries in following up Summit commitments to poverty eradication, at the country, regional and global levels. Important results have included increased gender mainstreaming in development programming, increased possibilities for UNDP to be engaged in the development of micro finance sectors as a tool for poverty alleviation, self-employment and social integration of excluded groups, and the broadening of the institutional base for civil society organization cooperation with the United Nations system.

22. The *Human Development Report 1997* is devoted to an analysis of global poverty, including suggestions on new ways to measure it (the new human poverty index) and a framework for combatting it. With the additional support of the poverty strategies initiative (a multi-donor programme launched immediately following the Summit) UNDP is working with over 80 countries in supporting national anti-poverty strategies in various stages of preparation. In partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNDP has also initiated efforts in several countries to explore the feasibility of promoting 20/20 compacts. It is also involved in planning the international "second-stage" event as a sequel to the 1996 Oslo meeting on 20/20 convened by the Government of Norway.

23. UNDP participated actively in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods, chaired by the International Labour Organization (ILO), led two of the seven country reviews and prepared a note on operationalizing the concept of "sustainable livelihoods". The sustainable livelihoods approach can provide added structure to employment/livelihood strategies, permitting more sensitive analysis and policy determination for those actually living in poverty. Notable in this context is the UNDP MicroStart Pilot Programme, which was designed to respond to the rapid developments in the micro finance sector. MicroStart provides institutional and capital support to micro finance institutions and networks in 25 pilot countries, thereby increasing direct access to financial services and building on the indigenous economic capacity of poor people and microentrepreneurs.

24. UNDP also supported a project on social exclusion that analysed the processes and patterns that prevent people from taking part in the economic and social life of their community. It also addressed the question of what kind of policies are required to promote the social integration of excluded groups. Building upon the results of the project,

UNDP is currently exploring ways in which the analysis of exclusion could make anti-poverty strategies more effective. Issues of exclusion and the breakdown of social ties are also being used to analyse and develop policy and programme directives on how development programmes can contribute to the rebuilding of the social fabric in societies torn apart by civil conflict and violence.

25. The International Labour Office was designated as task manager with the principal responsibility of preparing the report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme: productive employment and sustainable livelihoods (E/CN.5/1997/3), which was submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fifth session. The report, described under section III below, contains a number of recommendations for consideration and discussion by the Commission. The report on world employment 1996-97 published by the International Labour Office also provided the basis for a number of discussions on the subject, including a seminar organized by the Secretariat (see paras. 42-48 below).

26. The International Labour Office also chaired the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods. A number of comprehensive country-level employment reviews were undertaken, the framework of which encompassed the major features affecting the level and quality of employment, including national macroeconomic and sectoral policies covering such issues as savings, investment and enterprise development; labour market policies and institutions; democratic policy-making and social dialogue; gender discrimination and child labour; and trade and capital flows and migratory movements. The country reviews were conducted in Hungary, Nepal, Indonesia, Morocco, Zambia, Mozambique and Chile and were completed by February 1997. A 15-point set of guidelines was drawn up by the Task Force, which stated that a sound macroeconomic policy framework needed to be established; priority had to be given to efforts to expand productive employment in both the farm and non-farm sectors; the general level of education and of technical competence of the labour force had a vital bearing on increasing productivity, efficiency and international competitiveness; countries must design and formulate clearly a strategy for full employment and sustainable livelihoods based on social dialogue with the fullest possible degree of involvement of employers' and workers' organizations; a comprehensive strategy was needed in response to the discrimination faced by women; targeted programmes and policies were needed to remedy accentuated forms of environmental degradation and to assure sustainability of development; and liberalization and structural adjustment policies should be pursued to stimulate greater private sector participation, greater integration of countries into the world economy and enhanced competitiveness of domestic industry and better use of technology and capital.

27. The World Bank convened high-level expert meetings in 1996 and 1997 on the subject of "social capital", as part of its work on sustainable development and the measure of the wealth of nations which was stimulated by the Summit. In addition to natural capital, physical or produced capital, and to the now widely accepted notion of human capital, social capital refers to the functioning of the various institutions that are critical to individual welfare and social integration. Social capital can be depleted, for example, by corruption and political alienation. It can be enhanced, for instance, by ethical behaviour and trust among economic partners. Work on this concept of social capital will enhance the understanding and measurement of the development process.

E. Civil society

28. The Summit and the General Assembly both reaffirmed the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. The Assembly, in its resolution 51/202, encouraged non-governmental organizations to participate in the work of the Commission for Social Development. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1997/298 of 23 July 1997, decided, as an interim measure, to invite those non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Summit to attend the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, provided that they had started the process of application for consultative status in accordance with Council decision 1996/315 of 14 November 1996. It should be noted that representation and participation of non-governmental organizations at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission was the highest in the history of the Commission.

29. Since the World Summit for Social Development, the various actors of civil society have played a major role in supporting follow-up activities to the Summit, to remind Governments of their commitments made at Copenhagen and to sensitize public opinion on follow-up activities. In that connection, conferences, seminars and symposia have been organized at national, regional and international levels. Operational activities have been conducted at the field level. A few examples are given below.

30. The Business Association for the World Summit for Social Development has contributed to the establishment of an International Business Advisory Council. The Council brings together governmental bodies, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and entrepreneurs from different countries to work on common strategies aimed at fighting unemployment and promoting social progress and development.

31. The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, organized a non-governmental organization forum on the items before the Commission for Social Development just before the opening of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission. ICSW supports the holding of regional ministerial meetings on the follow-up to the Summit by organizing a non-governmental organization forum before each meeting. Such a meeting took place at São Paulo in April 1997 for the Latin American region. Another meeting is scheduled for November 1997 in Manila, the Philippines, for the Asian and Pacific region. In addition to the launching of the *Social Development Review*, ICSW has developed a website on social development and the Summit.

32. In 1996, the initiative "Social Watch" was launched by a group of non-governmental organizations to monitor social development policies and programmes formulated and carried out by countries in implementing decisions of the Summit. In the 1997 edition, the emphasis is on issues such as the dimensions of poverty and globalization and the status of women. A description of follow-up actions taken by 25 countries is also featured. The organization participated effectively at the Commission for Social Development and continues its efforts to work actively in the social development field, gathering statistics and data for the analysis and comparison between national reports. A workshop on social indicators will be organized by Social Watch in Montevideo at the end of August with the aim of perfecting their methodology and instruments, so as to enhance the efficiency of organizations of the civil society in their monitoring activities.

33. In May 1997, ICFTU convened a symposium on structural adjustment, globalization and employment creation at Dakar. Attended by over 100 union leaders from the African region, the symposium was a microcosm of important parts of the development debate and its implications on societies and economies of African countries. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the United Nations system, the African Development Bank, the European Union and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

34. The European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly organized a conference on "Elimination of Poverty in Old Age" in December 1996, in the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. The Conference was also viewed as a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and a preparatory activity for the International Year of the Older Person in 1999.

III. Priority theme for 1997: productive employment and sustainable livelihoods

A. Commission for Social Development

35. In its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Council, should have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Summit, and decided to enlarge the Commission's membership from 32 to 46 and to annualize its meetings. The Council also decided on a new structure of the agenda and multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the years 1997-2000, with "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development" as its substantive item.

36. The thirty-fifth session of the Commission took place in New York from 25 February to 6 March 1997, and considered the priority theme of productive employment and sustainable livelihoods, with three specific topics: (a) the centrality of employment in policy formulation, including a broader recognition of work and employment; (b) improving access to productive resources and infrastructure; and (c) enhanced quality of work and employment. For the consideration of the priority theme, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General prepared in cooperation with the International Labour Office, with contributions from the United Nations system (E/CN.5/1997/3).

37. It was noted that during the last couple of decades, the goal of full employment had been displaced by concern about containing inflation, public spending and fiscal deficits, resulting in an increase in unemployment and underemployment in most countries. It called for more balanced priorities that would put employment growth at the centre of economic and social policy-making without displacing those other important goals. The report also noted

that "high and productive levels of employment ... are fundamental means of combating poverty, of ensuring equity, of meeting peoples' aspirations for participation in economic and social life, and for preserving social cohesion" (E/CN.5/1997/3, para. 6).

38. Among the recommendations made in the report were an emphasis on the importance of increasing economic growth rates in order to increase the rate of employment growth, and a recognition that this would require political and social as well as macroeconomic stability; the importance of moderating the excesses of structural adjustment strategies; an acknowledgement that for certain countries, "a more gradual and selective approach to trade liberalization may be warranted" (ibid., para. 25); and the value of policy incentives to offset market failure.

39. The Commission subsequently adopted resolution 35/2,[4] which contains a set of agreed conclusions on productive employment and sustainable livelihoods, and decided to transmit them to the high-level segment of the 1997 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. Although many of the conclusions reiterated the commitments made at the Social Summit, the following new or strengthened commitments may be noted. The Commission recognized the importance of:

(a) Full, productive, appropriately and adequately remunerated and freely chosen employment as a central object of economic and social policies;

(b) Setting time-bound goals and targets for expanding employment and reducing unemployment;

(c) Increasing productivity in rural and urban informal sectors through improving access to credit, fertile land, productive inputs, infrastructure, basic social services, information and extension services;

(d) Balanced macroeconomic policies to ensure employment growth, price stability and low interest rates;

(e) Maximizing the quality and accessibility of such social services as education and health both to improve well-being and to increase employment;

(f) Promoting lifelong learning, beginning with basic education and continuing with opportunities for further education, training and skills development;

(g) Encouraging flexible working time arrangements such as job sharing and part-time work in order to promote equitable access to work;

(h) Increasing international, mutually reinforcing economic growth and social cooperation;

(I) Improving statistical databases on key social indicators.

40. Finally, the Secretary-General was requested, in the framework of United Nations system-wide coordination, to assist the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council to broaden and deepen the policy debate on employment issues.

41. In May 1997, the Chairman of the Commission for Social Development wrote to Ministers of Employment or Labour, bringing to their personal attention the agreed conclusions and inviting them to use them in their national deliberations on the question of employment and to disseminate the conclusions as widely as possible. Similar letters were also sent to the heads of funds, programmes and agencies in the United Nations system.

B. Other initiatives in the area of employment

42. As a follow-up to commitment 3 made at the Social Summit to "promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies",[5] the Secretariat organized a one-day seminar on world employment strategy to discuss the *Report on World Employment 1996/97* issued by the International Labour Office, and to reflect on policies that may contribute to improving employment projects at the national and international level. Over 70 persons attended the seminar, including delegations, academics, officials from the Secretariat and the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations. Among the topics discussed were global barriers to employment, policies for encouraging employment growth, promoting and maintaining high levels of employment, and means for compensating the "losers" by increasing employment.

43. The conclusion reached at the seminar was that employment policies had become one of the major issues of worldwide concern, since unemployment and underemployment had risen significantly in many parts of the world. First, high unemployment and underemployment undermined social cohesion and stability, unjustly inflicted economic and psychic deprivation on the unemployed and represented a waste of resources. Secondly, it was clear that the much heightened concern about this issue within the United Nations system had been demonstrated by the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular commitment 3, and the re-emphasis placed by the International Labour Conference in 1996 as well as the Commission for Social Development which met earlier in

1997 on the central importance of the goal of full employment.

44. There were various hypothesis about the causes of unemployment. One of the anxieties was that the growing globalization of the world economy would aggravate the unemployment situation, while the other was that rapid technological change was bringing about "jobless growth" and heralding the end of all hope for achieving full employment. All of the panellists agreed that although those anxieties were understandable, given the almost worldwide deterioration of employment conditions and some dramatic episodes of corporate downsizing and job losses, often concentrated in particular sectors and communities, they were greatly exaggerated.

45. Although the world economy was becoming more integrated through trade and other financial flows, and offers mutual benefits and growing opportunities for economic expansion to participating countries, it also generated social dislocation and demands difficult policy adjustments. Some of the concerns included the fact that economic policies were increasingly affected by the sentiments of a globalized financial market; that greater openness also implied greater vulnerability to shocks in the international economic system; and that heightened international economic competition and greater capital mobility weakened the bargaining position of labour, exerted downward pressure on labour standards and compromised the capacity of Governments to implement countervailing social policies.

46. The important conclusion of the panellists was that in spite of increasing globalization, national policies were still of great importance in determining levels of employment and labour standards. Those policies had to be more sensitive to considerations of international competitiveness, but that by no means implied that there was no longer any policy autonomy.

47. The policies for creating productive employment and reducing unemployment varied in scope and included economic, social and political aspects. Sound macroeconomic policies and political stability were major factors in encouraging domestic savings and investment as well as attracting capital flows in developing countries. Education and training were of the utmost importance for increasing productivity and facilitating people's access and adaptation to new production processes and technological changes in all countries. Infrastructure and human resources development were priorities for almost all countries and Governments, especially as knowledge advances rapidly.

48. International cooperation was needed to ensure a stable, open and expanding global economy that allowed countries more room for macroeconomic management without increasing international financial instability. Moreover, it was suggested that international cooperation should be increased in order to counteract the detrimental effects that adjustment programmes imposed on recipient countries.

C. Overall assessment of the implementation of commitment 3 made at the Summit on expansion of productive employment and reduction of unemployment

49. Two features of the global employment situation since the Summit stand out: that the employment situation and trends vary widely between countries; and that the level of government and public interest in the issue has increased substantially.

50. Statistical sources are, of course, inadequate for a comprehensive assessment of changes in employment, unemployment and underemployment since the Summit. ILO estimates that close to 1 billion people are either unemployed or underemployed, which is approximately 30 per cent of the entire global workforce.[6] In the European Union over 18 million potential workers were unemployed in May 1997, 10.8 per cent of the workforce, and the trend has been upward since 1995. In other industrialized countries the average unemployment rate has declined, from 11.6 per cent in 1995 to an estimated 11 per cent in 1997. In the transition economies the official measured rate of unemployment is about 11 per cent and this has been rising with the continuing decline of output. The actual rate is probably considerably higher – as it may well be also in many developed countries. Jobs were reported to be the main issue in the recent Canadian election as they were at the last Australian election, and even in Japan unemployment is causing concern. In the United States of America, where there is a great sense of achievement about the decline in the unemployment rate to 5 per cent, it is relevant to recall that part-time work, often with no benefits, the need to hold down several jobs to earn a living income, and the number of low paid jobs have been increasing. Also, 1.6 million people, more than 1 per cent of the workforce, are currently in prison.

51. In a survey of electoral opinion in eight Latin American countries, those polled cited unemployment as their country's most serious problem.[7] Unemployment, and even more pervasively, underemployment, characterizes most cities in developing countries. Low productivity, low income work – or underemployment – is the principal cause

of poverty in developing countries. There is full employment in only a few East Asian countries.

52. For these reasons the extent of public and political interest is increasing. The agreed conclusions of the Commission for Social Development cited in paragraph 39 above are a clear example. Others include the statement by the eighty-third session of the International Labour Conference in June 1996 on employment policy, the decision of the Denver Summit of Eight to hold a special ministerial conference on employment early in 1998 in preparation for the Birmingham Summit, the negotiation of the Amsterdam Treaty to succeed the Maastricht Treaty with a new chapter on employment, and the attention given to the issue at the ECLAC meeting on follow-up to the Summit in Sao Paulo in April 1997 (see paras. 6 and 7 above). This increased attention is leading to additional policy initiatives that offer the prospect of embedding growth of employment more centrally in national economic and social strategies, thus increasing the pace of employment creation. Nevertheless, the immensity of the extent of unemployment and underemployment show that this change of priorities will have to be maintained for a long time for a major impact on them to be achieved.

IV. Preparation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development

53. The thirty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development will be held in February 1998, with the priority theme of promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons. Under this heading, the Commission will focus on the following specific topics: (a) promoting social integration through responsive government, full participation in society, non-discrimination, tolerance, equality and social justice; (b) enhancing social protection, reducing vulnerability and enhancing employment opportunities for groups with specific needs; and (c) violence, crime and the problem of illicit drugs and substance abuse as factors of social disintegration.

54. In order to assist the Commission in its work, the Secretariat is convening two workshops, to which independent experts from all regions are being invited, on the following subjects: (a) participation and social justice; and (b) reducing vulnerability. The background papers being prepared by the Secretariat, together with the reports of the respective workshops, will be made available to the Commission. The report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Commission will contain suggestions and policy options for giving further impetus to the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and related policy recommendations included in the Programme of Action.

V. Special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

55. In its resolution 51/202, the General Assembly recalled its decision to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives.

56. Regarding the preparatory process of the special session, the General Assembly decided that the Commission for Social Development, as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council with the primary responsibility for follow-up to the Summit, and for review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, would undertake work in 1999-2000 for the preparations of the special session. It also decided that a preparatory committee of the whole of the Assembly would be established at its fifty-second session, which would hold an organizational session in 1998, and would initiate its substantive activities in 1999 on the basis of inputs by the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, and would also take into account contributions by other relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

57. Towards that end, the Secretariat is in the process of drawing up proposals for the necessary preparations and actions to support to the process. Looking ahead to the year 2000, the following timetable sets out the preparatory process already agreed upon by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Year Month	*Meeting*	*Action to be taken*
1997 (October-December)	General Assembly, fifty-second session	Establishment of a preparatory committee of the whole
1998 (February)	Commission for Social Development, thirty-sixth session	Proposals to the Economic and Social Council on social integration
1998 (immediately after organizational session of the Council)	Session of the Council	Consideration of theme of integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits
1998 (July)	Substantive session of the Council	Review proposals of the Commission for Social Integration
1998 (date to be decided)	Preparatory Committee, organizational session	Decision on draft agenda, organization of work, documentation and inputs from United Nations system and others
1998 (October-December)	General Assembly, fifty-third session	Review and take stock of progress made; provide additional guidance
1999 (February/March)	Commission for Social Development, thirty-seventh session	Proposals to the Council on social services for all
		Input to Preparatory Committee on overall review of Summit implementation
1999 (dates to be decided)	Preparatory Committee, first substantive session	Proposals on agenda of the second session; additional documentation
1999 (July)	Substantive session of the Council	Overall review of theme of poverty eradication to contribute to special session
1999 (October-December)	General Assembly, fifty-fourth session	Take stock and provide additional guidance
2000 (February/March)	Commission for Social Development, thirty-eighth session	Proposals to Preparatory Committee on overview of Summit follow-up
2000 (dates to be decided)	Preparatory Committee, second substantive session	Proposals for the special session
2000 (dates to be decided)	Special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit	

58. Taking the above timetable into account, the Secretariat envisages the following preparatory steps:

(a) The convening of expert group meetings with the view to enhancing the Secretariat's substantive input to the preparatory process and the special session;

(b) The exchange of experience among Governments in implementing the outcome of the Summit will be facilitated;

(c) The holding of special events by non-governmental organizations, academic and research organizations, the business community and local and provincial governments, to make an input to the intergovernmental preparatory process will be promoted;

(d) The consideration by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-sixth session, in 1998, of the establishment of an in-session open-ended working group during its thirty-seventh session in 1999, to review and decide on the type of input/contribution that the Commission would make to the substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee in 1999 and 2000.

59. Finally, an ad hoc inter-agency mechanism will be established within the United Nations system to ensure that the inputs from the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system are included and well coordinated throughout the preparatory process.

Notes

[1] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 9* (E/1996/29) and ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 6* (E/1997/26).

[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 6* (E/1997/26), chap. I, sect D.

[5] A/CONF.166/9, chap I, resolution 1, annex I, para. 29.

[6] ILO, *World Employment 1996/97: National Policies in a Global Context*, Geneva, 1996.

[7] ECLAC, *Social Panorama of Latin America*, Santiago, March 1997, p. 151.

Annex

Initiatives of national Governments on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

1. One hundred and ten Governments have reported on national actions taken in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. They are: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. While some Governments provided information only on the designation of focal points, others described in detail national actions taken.

2. Cited below are brief summaries of actions taken by 40 countries.

Argentina

3. Following the Summit, the Government of Argentina convened a meeting of the Rio Group (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) in May 1995, which adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration on the follow-up to the Summit. In partnership with the other members of the Group, Argentina drafted a concrete regional programme of activities on the implementation of commitments made at Copenhagen. Other actions taken included the holding of an interamerican technical seminar on poverty and a conference on the eradication of poverty and discrimination. In paying particular attention to the issue of poverty eradication, a wide spectrum of social policy was implemented, covering areas such as housing for the homeless, food for the needy, community development and ensuring the well-being of families. It also established a data system to monitor trends relating to poverty eradication. Other efforts include educating people on how to tackle poverty and turning economic growth into social progress through the provision of productive employment opportunities.

Belgium

4. The Government of Belgium took advantage of the observance of the International Year for Poverty Eradication in 1996 to review the commitments made at Copenhagen and to formulate proposals for their implementation. It established a national commission, composed of representatives of the federal Government, communities and regions and with the collaboration of non-governmental organizations, to elaborate a comprehensive strategy with a view to strengthening social integration of the most vulnerable groups of society. In the context of the Year, it commissioned the compilation of a report on poverty. On the basis of the results of the report, interministerial conferences of social integration were held, with the participation of local authorities. Those consultations led to the following actions at the regional level: (a) the Flemish regional government carried out urban development programmes and a cross-sectoral committee for the eradication of poverty composed of civil servants and representatives of non-governmental organizations acted as an advisory body to the Flemish government and prepared an annual report on progress made; (b) the Walloon regional government established within its administration a social integration unit with the responsibility of coordinating activities relating to the eradication of poverty; and (c) the Brussels region targeted underprivileged city areas so as to increase the benefits they receive from its programme on eradication of poverty.

Bulgaria

5. The Government of Bulgaria developed a strategy aimed at implementing the decisions taken at Copenhagen, which is contained in a report entitled "National Programme for Social Development". The report deals with actions to be taken through creating conditions for enhancing social

development, alleviation and reduction of poverty, improving the quality of life, expanding higher employment opportunities, and fostering social integration of the most vulnerable groups of the population. It draws up the means required for the implementation of the strategy by assessing national resources, international cooperation opportunities and the support of non-governmental organizations in that endeavour.

Burkina Faso

6. Burkina Faso established a national committee to carry out activities relating to the follow-up to the Summit. The committee has formulated a programme of activities with the following main features: (a) coordinating all actions launched at the national level; (b) promoting income-generating projects, housing, education and health programmes and involving women in the process of development; (c) developing an employment scheme taking into account the resources and potentials of the informal sector and the need to provide support to women involved in self-employment activities. Young school leavers, graduates and women are the target-groups of special programmes.

Canada

7. In Canada, government authorities at both the federal and provincial levels have taken initiatives, in collaboration with business and local communities, to formulate and strengthen policies and programmes aimed at reducing the number of people living in poverty and providing effective social safety nets. These actions focused on the three key elements of learning, work and social security, and included a new employment insurance legislation; measures to assist low income families with children; programmes for youth geared to enhancing work opportunities; and more flexible transfer payments to provinces to support the development of innovative social programmes. At the international level, Canada contributed to development assistance programmes in support of sustainable development activities in order to reduce poverty and secure a more equitable and prosperous world. Canada is also committed to directing 25 per cent of its development assistance to meeting basic human needs, with collateral, emphasizing democratic development, strengthening the position of women and youth and promoting employment opportunities for vulnerable groups.

Chile

8. On the suggestion of the Government of Chile, the Rio Group established a coordinating body for the follow-up to the Summit, including heads of governmental structures responsible for social policies. The body met to formulate strategies for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Chile also held a conference on poverty eradication and discrimination in January 1996, in the context of the International Year for Poverty Eradication. At the regional and international levels, Chile has pioneered concrete initiatives geared to the implementation of the outcome of the Summit.

China

9. In the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the Government of China has adopted a target to eradicate abject poverty by the end of the century. Promoting social development is an important component of the ninth five-year plan (1996-2001) for national economic and social development and the outline of the long-range objectives to the year 2000. Under those measures, the Government is addressing the aspects of feeding and clothing the poor, expanding employment by the creation of 40 million jobs and increasing the availability of basic education. China has also elaborated a programme for national social development for the period 1996-2010. The State Planning Commission has been designated as the focal point for matters relating to the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and has formulated concrete plans for annual and long-term activities.

Colombia

10. Strategies elaborated by the Government of Colombia in the context of the follow-up to the Summit, considered as structural and compensatory programmes, include seven components: (a) education, culture and leisure; (b) universal social security coverage; (c) improving access to housing; (d) empowering women and encouraging their participation in economical and political activities; (e) improving the situation of ethnic minorities; (f) developing economic solidarity and providing support to small-scale entrepreneurship; and (g) putting emphasis on the respect of human rights and urban security and safety.

11. The national development plan, referred to as "El Salto Social", gave top priority to poverty eradication, creation of productive employment, social integration and provision of basic needs. The Government has also set in motion the Social Solidarity Network, a strategy that aims at improving the living conditions of the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the population and initiating large social programmes through joint efforts of State-owned and

territorial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the civil society. The strategy has implemented over 13 special projects, including plans for emergency employment in rural and urban areas.

Denmark

12. The first of the Copenhagen seminars for social progress, organized by the host Government of the Summit, Denmark, took place in October 1996, and had the theme "Conditions for social progress: a world economy for the benefit of all". An advance version of the report of the seminar was distributed as an official document of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fifth session in March 1997 (E/CN.5/1997/10). The final report, and a summary of conclusions, are now available. A second seminar, entitled "Conditions for social progress: meet and create markets", will be held in October 1997. The themes to be discussed are: obstacles to accessing the market; policies for creating democratic markets; and setting limits to the role of the market. The seminars are being organized to pursue the international debate initiated by the Summit and to attempt to clarify the relationships between international economic trends and decisions and the living conditions of people.

Ecuador

13. In implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the Government of Ecuador has elaborated a rural development programme aimed at increasing the productivity of farmers, diversifying agricultural products and creating employment opportunities in rural areas vulnerable to poverty. A strategy has also been designed to support economic growth among the most marginalized proportion of the rural population through the establishment of a fund to provide access to micro-credit. Human development initiatives include the development of primary health services, provision of basic education opportunities and the improvement of the quality of education. As a member of the Rio Group, Ecuador took part in activities conducted in the Latin American region in connection with the follow-up to the Summit.

Finland

14. Measures taken by the Government of Finland on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, particularly the fight against poverty, are designed according to the welfare system based on the principle of full access to services to all citizens corresponding to their needs. The system includes three major dimensions: social and health policy, education and labour. During the first half of 1996, a group of experts in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health studied the current development of poverty and social exclusion in Finland and made proposals to combat them. Finland also developed measures and programmes to eliminate poverty among disabled persons. Education and prevention of social exclusion of young people has been a major aspect of measures taken by the Government in implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. In the field of employment, the Government has put emphasis on policies and programmes aimed at reducing long-term unemployment and alleviating social exclusion. Concrete actions taken include the formulation by districts of regional employment programmes and increasing self-unemployment opportunities.

France

15. Following the Summit, the Government of France decided to maintain the National Preparatory Committee set up in 1993 for the Summit, changing its name to the National Follow-up Committee and assigning to it responsibilities for the implementation of decisions taken at Copenhagen. Composed of government officials, social partners and representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Committee has carried out a wide range of activities. It began its work by holding a meeting in February 1996 to define priority issues. The Committee has also launched a national awareness-raising campaign on the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It prepared a note on the process of globalization and related social issues for the Group of Seven at its summit held at Lyon, France, in June 1996. In November 1996, the Committee reviewed actions carried out at the local level, assessed the work of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, discussed issues relating to the preparation of a green paper on social cohesion and prepared a report on its work that was presented to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fifth session in February 1997.

Gabon

16. The Government of Gabon prepared a comprehensive report on measures taken to implement the outcomes of the Summit. The report identified seven areas of activities to focus on: (a) food security, to be acquired through provision of financial assistance; (b) the building and strengthening of social infrastructures which would support activities aimed at fighting poverty; (c) a project for the construction of 1,000 houses, launched with the assistance of the African Housing Fund; (d) with the support of the African Development Bank and the American Peace Corps, projects

aimed at building education and training infrastructures; (e) to tackle unemployment, the creation of a national bureau of employment to streamline and manage labour-related data and information and opportunities for placement of job seekers; (f) health and social welfare programmes which have been given the principal objective of providing access to universal coverage of the population; and (g) the advancement of women, for which the Government is elaborating a new bill to strengthen measures protecting the rights of the mother and the child and supporting the establishment of organizations for women.

Ghana

17. Ghana established a National Development Planning Commission charged with implementing and monitoring the Government's macroeconomic and sectoral policies to ensure that broad-based, sustained economic growth and development meets the aspirations of all members of its society. A comprehensive development policy document called "Ghana Vision 20/20: The First Step" was being translated into a national programme of action or reference document informing the entire community of the enabling environment for the country's priority social and economic activities. Emphasis has been put on national coordination mechanisms, capacity-building and mobilization of internal and external resources to ensure effective implementation.

Germany

18. In addition to a sophisticated social security system providing assistance to the weaker sections of the population, the Federal Government of Germany has recently enacted a reform of social assistance legislation along the line of commitments made at Copenhagen. The new legislation aims at supporting more strongly incentives available to recipients of social assistance so as to help them find work through development of vocational skills. The Government has also kept the parliament and the public informed of the latest developments in the field of social development by publishing a series of reports on special groups and particular circumstances under which they live. Studies and surveys have been carried out and specialized conferences held on such topics as the cost of living with regard to children, housing for low-income households, indebtedness and debt counselling services, helping people find employment and new approaches in the care of the elderly. Germany has also developed projects designed to benefit the poorer groups of the population. The main focus of the German development cooperation is on efforts to combat poverty; protection of the environment and resources; education and training; with participating and self-help as the basic principles.

India

19. Initiatives taken by the Government of India on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action have been integrated into activities designed under the eighth national plan. The initiatives have the following objectives: (a) generation of adequate employment to achieve full employment by the turn of the century; (b) containment of population growth through people's active cooperation and supported by an effective scheme of incentives and disincentives; (c) universalization of elementary education and complete eradication of illiteracy among the people in the age group of 15 to 35 years; (d) provision of safe drinking water and primary health care facilities, including immunization, accessible to all villages and the entire population, and the complete elimination of scavenging; (e) growth and diversification of agriculture to achieve self-sufficiency in food and generate a surplus for exports; and (f) strengthening the infrastructure (energy, transport, communication, irrigation) in order to support the growth process on a sustainable basis.

Ireland

20. Following the Summit in March 1995, the Government of Ireland established a high-level intergovernmental policy committee to oversee the development of a national anti-poverty strategy to address issues relating to poverty and social exclusion. The Committee is composed of senior officials of all relevant government departments and national agencies, and chaired by the Prime Minister. It prepared and published a statement setting out the nature and extent of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland, and requested inputs from voluntary and community organizations, social partners and other interested bodies and individuals. More than 300 contributions were received, evaluated and published. Regional seminars to discuss those contributions were held in various locations of the country. From the submissions received and the development of the anti-poverty statement, five key themes have been identified. They include: (a) educational disadvantage; (b) unemployment, particularly long-term unemployment; (c) income adequacy; (d) disadvantaged urban communities with a concentration of poverty; and (e) poverty in rural areas. Five working groups have been established to address the themes identified, focusing on policy instruments and institutional mechanisms.

21. The Government of Ireland recently published a national anti-poverty strategy, "Sharing in Progress", which represents a unique initiative in the development of public policy in Ireland, it being the first time that an Irish Government has formulated a strategic plan to address the issue of social exclusion in its society. The top priority of the Strategy is to reduce the 9 to 15 per cent of the Irish population who have been identified as consistently poor to under 5 to 10 per cent by the year 2007.

Islamic Republic of Iran

22. The Islamic Republic of Iran's development strategies, policy plans, and programmes are being reoriented towards a people-centred, human development approach. A large portion of total public expenditure has been allocated to social development and poverty alleviation, with the goal of reaching 48 per cent by 1997. The "national project of poverty eradication" was adopted in September 1996, with the major goals of identifying the economic hardship of the people, creating appropriate grounds and opportunities for full employment of both men and women, addressing the concerns of vulnerable groups, in particular the disabled and the elderly. The Government has also taken steps to improve the economic conditions of people in lower income brackets by forcing agricultural support programmes through subsidized input and guaranteed price floors for the output, inflation adjusted minimum wages for manufacturing workers, low price of public utilities for the lower consumption levels and subsidized housing.

Israel

23. Israel is committed to the objectives of the Summit and has recently taken a number of steps to implement national initiatives in the spirit of the recommendations contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Efforts have been aimed at sustained economic growth through strengthening the peace process, investing in technology, expanding capital investment and employment opportunities. The Government of Israel has identified specific social welfare measures for vulnerable social groups. Those measures include: (a) increasing expenditures for income maintenance and social services; (b) providing better health services; (c) enhancing education opportunities; and (d) providing better access to housing. Resource allocation for the care of children at risk, prevention of family violence, and expansion of services and improvement of the quality of life for the elderly are parts of the social welfare scheme.

Jamaica

24. In its activities aimed at implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the Government of Jamaica has put emphasis on eradication of poverty. In this regard, a national poverty eradication programme was developed, encompassing the following elements: a long-term strategy to improve education and training opportunities; a sound welfare system; and geographically targeted measures involving multifaced poverty reduction activities in deprived communities. The programme was the result of a national conference on poverty held in May 1995, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. The Planning Institute of Jamaica has undertaken an extensive review of the problems of poverty and unemployment, and their level of severity. Sixty programmes to eradicate poverty were launched, focusing on the development of human resources through investment and social policy reform. The Government has taken other initiatives in areas such as human resource development, involving actors of civil society in social development policies and programmes, expanding the micro-enterprise sector and creating a social investment fund with the assistance of the World Bank. The involvement of civil society in social development was encouraged and the labour market had been reformed to provide more employment opportunities.

Malawi

25. Actions taken by the Government of Malawi on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit include amending its Constitution so as to create a conducive and enabling environment for the formulation and implementation of social development policy and programmes. The Government also approved a policy framework for a poverty alleviation programme. Free primary education has been targeted as a long-term goal towards eradicating poverty. The integration in society of marginalized groups, particularly girls and women, has been also identified as a priority. A social investment programme (known as Malawi Social Action Fund) is being piloted, with the objective of developing social infrastructure at the grass-roots level. In addition, various credit schemes are being formulated to provide capital to poor people wishing to create self-employment opportunities.

Mexico

26. In honouring the commitments made at the Summit, the Government of Mexico has formulated a national strategy to alleviate the plight of poverty. Elaborated with

the contribution of representatives of various sectors of society, the strategy is based on the national development plan for the period 1995-2000, which includes a social capital element. Main elements of the plan are: (a) providing equal opportunities to all citizens regarding social services; (b) increasing the well-being and living standards of the population; and (c) giving priority to the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Mongolia

27. In Mongolia, the national committee established for the preparation of the Summit had been mandated to ensure nationwide coordination of follow-up activities to the Summit. Prior to this, the Government had adopted a poverty alleviation programme and a study on social conditions in the country was carried out. On the basis of the study, Mongolia launched a poverty eradication programme aiming at reducing the number of poor people from 26 per cent to 10 per cent by the year 2000. While most of the activities of the programme are being carried out at the local level, a poverty alleviation committee has been set up to coordinate the programme at the national level.

Netherlands

28. The Government of the Netherlands has been active in implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It co-sponsored the Oslo 20/20 Conference with the Government of Norway, held in April 1996. During the ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Midrand, South Africa, an agreement was signed whereby the Netherlands would contribute US$ 1 million to a trust fund in support of programmes developed in the least developed countries. The Netherlands has been providing support to the poverty assessments programme undertaken by the World Bank. In the context of the follow-up to the Summit, non-governmental organizations have conducted activities to complement governmental actions. Those include publications, and national, regional and local conferences. In April 1996, the non-governmental organizations published a document entitled "A Social Mirror" on the social policy of the Government as a basis for further discussions. The Government has also provided the non-governmental organizations with financial support to implement their activities related to the follow-up to the Summit.

New Zealand

29. The Government of New Zealand introduced several significant economic and social reforms consistent with the commitments made at Copenhagen. During the past two years, on the recommendation of a task force, the Government has adopted policies to improve employment opportunities, with emphasis on young unemployed and long-term unemployed. New Zealand has also launched a comprehensive set of targeted income support programmes with supplementary programmes to meet individual and family needs. The Government recently announced a package of tax reductions and family assistance measures that will increase the net income of all low-income families with dependent children.

Norway

30. The Government of Norway has, for a long time, considered its commitment to the alleviation of poverty and suffering in developing countries as a moral imperative and an integral part of its development assistance. In spring 1996 the Government submitted to the Parliament a White Paper that gave an overview of the basic measures and principles for poverty reduction in Norwegian development assistance. As a follow-up to the Summit, Norway hosted a meeting at Oslo in April 1996 on the 20/20 initiative, at which the Oslo Consensus on 20/20 was adopted. A central aspect of the consensus was the commitment to the goal of universal access to basic social services.

Pakistan

31. Prior to the Summit, Pakistan implemented, with external financial support, the Social Action Programme I aimed at addressing primary education needs, basic health care, family planning and water supply in rural areas. Since the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, Pakistan has created an enabling environment to meet the objective of full employment and eradication of poverty, and the challenge of negative effects of economic reforms on social programmes. In addition, a number of measures have been taken to provide relief to the disadvantaged and marginalized groups of society. These steps were incremental to the implementation of the Social Action Programme Project II, which targeted those groups specifically. Concrete measures included a rural support programme through non-governmental organizations, establishment of vocational and technical training centres, construction of farm-to-market roads, electrification of villages, financial and technical assistance to non-governmental organizations under a participatory development programme, provision of loans to unemployed persons for establishing their own business, provision of technical and financial assistance to micro-enterprises, and the establishment of the Pakistan poverty alleviation Fund.

Peru

32. In implementing the outcome of the Summit, the Government of Peru has put emphasis on improving the quality of life of the population. It has targeted employment creation, poverty eradication and social and economic integration of the most vulnerable groups of the population. The part of the national budget allocated to development programmes and projects shifted from 37 per cent in 1995 to 40 per cent in 1996. The Government has also achieved major economic successes in stabilizing the rise of inflation, increasing economic growth and fighting poverty and destitution. Peru has established a strategy to reduce extreme poverty by 50 per cent by the year 2000, which will leave less than 10 per cent of the population in extreme poverty.

Philippines

33. The Government of the Philippines established a World Summit for Social Development Multisectoral Committee to coordinate activities connected to the follow-up to the Summit and other United Nations international conferences. Main areas of responsibility of the Committee include:(a) ensuring the full implementation of the recommendations of the Summit; (b) submitting regular progress reports to the Social Development Committee, the President, the Parliament and the United Nations; (c) mobilizing various governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, peoples' organizations and other actors of civil society to work together in implementing the outcome of the Summit; (d) preparing a monitoring mechanism for the follow-up to the Summit; and (e) promoting awareness-raising campaign of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

34. The Social Reform Agenda of the Philippines had a three-point agenda: access to quality basic services; access to productive resources and asset reforms; and institution-building and participation in governance. On employment expansion, the Philippine Government has embarked upon the Comprehensive Employment Strategy Programme, which emphasizes employment generation, promoting labour welfare, and human resource development focussed on providing skills for productive employment.

Poland

35. Poland has formulated multidimensional strategies and socio-economic programmes in conformity with the recommendations stemming from the Summit. Its current social security scheme was undergoing a period of complex reforms and unemployment insurance was being developed, with emphasis on the promotion of economic activity of the unemployed in small towns and in rural areas, as well as the disabled.

Republic of Korea

36. In fulfilling the objectives set out by the Summit, the Government of the Republic of Korea formulated the framework for the national welfare of the twenty-first century, which aimed at attaining a higher standard of living, expanding social and welfare services and improving the social insurance system. At the international level, the Republic of Korea reaffirmed its pledge to vigorously support efforts aimed at implementing the Summit commitments. It set forth the objective not only to expand the scale of its official development assistance, but also to provide technical training for more than 30,000 persons from developing countries by the year 2010.

Romania

37. The Summit provided the ground for reviewing and developing the existing social strategy and laws of Romania. The Government has reinforced actions devoted to improving living standards and enhancing social integration. Among the actions were a project for the development of social services; a pilot programme for poverty eradication; measures for enhancing the protection of children; aids to the elderly, the disabled, families without income or with low income; youth training and access to jobs; and granting credits for the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises. One of the major objectives of the Romanian Governing Programme is the protection of population against the social costs of the transition to market economy.

Russian Federation

38. In following up the commitments made at the Summit, the Russian Federation has established a Council on Social Development Questions. The objectives of the Council are to prepare and conduct activities geared to the implementation of decisions adopted at Copenhagen, including eradication of poverty, expansion of productive employment, promotion of social integration and support to persons in adverse social circumstances.

Sweden

39. The Government of Sweden designated the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs as focal point for the follow-up to the Social Summit. The Ministry launched a welfare project aiming at an in-depth debate, analysis and development of the future of the Swedish welfare system, in close cooperation with universities, research institutes,

non-governmental organizations and local and central government authorities. Another new project is a government task force on social integration, focusing on social problems in the three largest cities in Sweden, to analyse the factors behind social exclusion and poverty. In May 1996, a conference on the theme "A Society for All: Forum on Social Integration and Development" was organized by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Representatives of the Parliament, governmental officials, all relevant local authorities and actors of the civil society attended the conference. The focus of the conference was on employment opportunities, adequate housing for all and the welfare of children at their early age. The overall objective of the Swedish development cooperation is to raise the standard of living of people in poor nations. With a view to strengthening the poverty focus, the Government intends to concentrate development cooperation on a more limited number of countries and to strengthen a more long-term orientation, as well as to place greater emphasis on equality issues.

Switzerland

40. In the context of the International Year for Poverty Eradication, the Government of Switzerland carried out a number of activities relating to the follow-up to the Summit. In February 1996, the Ministers for the Interior and Foreign Affairs launched the Year with much publicity. A discussion followed the event. It brought together the two Ministers, government officials, the media and non-governmental organizations working in the field of poverty eradication in Switzerland and in developing countries. The Minster of the Interior announced, at this occasion, the creation of a fund of SwF 300,000 to support projects aimed at fighting poverty in Switzerland. At the request of the conference of ministers of social affairs of the cantons, a meeting took place at Berne on 5 July 1996. It offered a forum for discussion to political leaders, members of the Parliament, officials of the civil service and representatives of charity organizations. The main objective of the meeting was to review strategies and means for improving the cooperation between public and private organizations active in the area of poverty eradication. Switzerland took other steps regarding coordination of actions relating to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action at the international level.

Thailand

41. The Government of Thailand has designated the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board as its focal point for the implementation and monitoring of the Summit follow-up. Thailand's five-year national economic and social development plan (1997-2001) is consistent with the goals of the Summit. The plan has mapped three strategies: strengthening the national economy by promoting equitable income distribution; promoting social integration and social justice; and improving capacity-building through the development of national administration. The plan also gives consideration to commitment 2 of the Summit, with a target of reducing the number of poor people to below 10 per cent by the end of the year 2000.

Ukraine

42. Ukraine drafted a policy instrument on the basic priorities of public authorities in the implementation of the final documents of the Summit. The document provides for nationwide measures aimed at strengthening economic and social development programmes; stimulating production in factories; improving the flow of credits; intensifying investments; and accelerating the process of agrarian reform. The Government is also undertaking several social programmes for the advancement of women and the family, protection of mothers and children, family planning and for disabled persons. In the context of the International Year for Poverty Eradication, the Government has established and developed a system to monitor poverty and to collect and review data and information relating to its root causes and the different forms it takes.

United Republic of Tanzania

43. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania developed in 1996 a national policy on poverty as its major policy instrument for the follow-up to the Summit. In this context, a country strategy note on poverty eradication was prepared, which identified priorities, challenges and suggested practical measures to combat poverty. The Government also held workshops, seminars and meetings nationwide involving a cross-section of people and institutions from academia, representatives of donor countries, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. As an ongoing activity, the Government, in collaboration with the World Bank, has prepared a country economic memorandum on poverty alleviation. It established a Poverty Eradication Division under the Vice-President's Office with as main responsibilities coordination of actions by different stakeholders involved in poverty eradication in the country.

United States of America

44. In implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the United States of America has developed a comprehensive programme encompassing national as well as international dimensions. The following elements deal mostly with international measures: (a) universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by 80 per cent of primary school-age children; (b) life expectancy of not less than 60 years in any country (United States life expectancy is 76 years); (c) reduction of the mortality rates of infants and children under five years of age; (d) reduction in maternal mortality; (e) achieve food security by ensuring safe and nutritionally adequate food supply and access to enough food for all; (f) primary health care for all; (g) access through primary health-care system to reproductive health for all people of appropriate ages; (h) eradication, elimination or control of major diseases constituting global health problems; (i) reduction in the adult illiteracy rate; (j) access to safe drinking water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all; and (k) improving the availability of affordable and adequate shelter for all. At the national level, the Government has undertaken efforts to support social development, including increasing the minimum wage, reforming health insurance policies, reducing the national deficit and providing tax credits for working families with children.

Venezuela

45. The Government of Venezuela adopted a series of measures in line with the commitments made at the Summit. A new development strategy was designed to generate economic productivity and social equity. A major component of this strategy was strengthening organizational capacities among the population so as to stimulate development of community programmes. Venezuela has been working with other countries of Latin America to identify new and creative ways to combat poverty. Its commitment to eradicate poverty comprises three basic areas: a system of services targeting low-income families through direct subsidies, subsidies for education and for the care of the elderly; revision of the current legislation to guarantee universal access to the job market; and training programmes oriented to non-traditional activities.

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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 51/42 of 10 December 1996, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia", the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

2. As of to date, no replies have been received. Should the Secretary-General receive replies from Member States, they will be issued as addenda to the present report.

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/123 of 13 December 1996, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).[1]

2. In response to that request, the present report provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

3. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference during their 1997 sessions. Accordingly, the information contained in the present report primarily reflects the result of the work of the Committee, whose report[2] is also before the General Assembly.

II. WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

4. The Working Group of the Whole was reconvened by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its 1997 session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/123 to continue its work.

5. At its 1997 session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as contained in its report (A/AC.105/672, annex II) and recommended that the Working Group be reconvened in 1998 to continue its work.

III. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

6. In paragraph 25 of its resolution 51/123, the General Assembly invited all Governments within the organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to take effective action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. In that connection, the Committee noted with appreciation the participation in all stages of its work and that of its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee by representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations.

7. Several United Nations bodies and specialized agencies have extensive space-related programmes that are contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, particularly the United Nations Environment

Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization. Details of these programmes can be found in the yearly reports of the Secretary-General on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. The latest report (A/AC.105/675) contains an overview of the work programme of United Nations bodies and agencies for 1997 and 1998.

8. The programmes and projects of the organizations of the United Nations system are coordinated at annual inter-agency meetings. At its eighteenth session, the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities welcomed a proposal submitted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on enhancement of the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system through the use of advanced information technologies. The Meeting agreed that the Office should proceed to establish, within its home page, a page that would allow a visitor to the home page of the Office to visit the home pages of other organizations with space activities. The Meeting also agreed to continue its consideration at its next session on the procedure to utilize the Internet and its services in preparing the annual report of the Secretary-General, mentioned in paragraph 7 above, and in creating an electronic forum for informal inter-agency dialogue to further enhance the coordination of space applications activities. The nineteenth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting is scheduled to be held in May 1998 at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

IV. STUDIES

9. In response to the requests of the Working Group of the Whole at its tenth session, the Secretariat prepared and submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session, in 1997, the following reports and studies: "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: activities of Member States" (A/AC.105/661 and Add.1-2), "Basic space science in developing countries" (A/AC.105/664) and "Use of new technologies in satellite communications and information networks" (A/AC.105/665).

10. In endorsing the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its eleventh session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space noted that further technical studies and reports to be prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs would be on subjects commissioned by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, acting as Advisory Committee for the UNISPACE III Conference (see sect. VIII below on the UNISPACE III Conference) and on subjects that could serve as background papers either for the preparatory activities for the UNISPACE III Conference or for the Conference itself.

11. In addition, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group, the Secretariat will prepare for submission to the Subcommittee at its 1998 session the following reports and studies: reports from Member States and

international organizations involved in space activities on their space activities subject to greater international cooperation, on their research on space debris, particularly on practices that have been adopted and that have proved effective in minimizing the creation of space debris, and on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, as well as reports from Member States on their national and cooperative international space activities, on their resources and technological capabilities in the fields of space activities for the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, on safety of space objects with nuclear power sources (NPS), and on the collision of orbiting space objects with NPS on board with space debris.

V. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

12. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Conference that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be directed towards seven specific objectives. The activities conducted in 1996 by the Programme and the plans for the period 1997-1998 to meet those objectives are contained in the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/660 and Add.1).

A. Training courses/workshops/conferences/symposia

13. Part of the activities carried out or planned under the Programme in 1997, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and Governments of Member States, include the following training courses, workshops, conference, symposium and seminar: United Nations/European Space Agency (ESA) Workshop on Satellite Communications, organized in cooperation with the Government of India and ESA; United Nations Seminar on Space Futures and Human Security, organized in cooperation with the Government of Austria; Seventh United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, organized in cooperation with the Government of Sweden; Seventh United Nations/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Science, organized in cooperation with the Government of Honduras and ESA; United Nations/ESA Symposium on Space Industry Cooperation with the Developing World, organized in cooperation with the Government of Austria, the State of Styria, the City of Graz and ESA; United Nations/Israel International Workshop on Satellite Communications Technology for Capacity-building, organized in cooperation with the Government of Israel; United Nations/International Astronautical Federation (IAF)/ESA Workshop on Space Technology as a Cost-effective Tool to Improve Infrastructure in Developing Countries, organized in cooperation with the Government of Italy, the European Commission, ESA and IAF; United Nations/Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)/Brazil Workshop on Data Analysis Techniques, organized in cooperation with the Government of Brazil, COSPAR and ESA; Fourth United Nations/ESA Training Course on Applications of the European Remote Sensing Satellite Data for Natural Resources, Renewable Energy and the Environment, organized in cooperation with the Department for Development Support and Management of the Secretariat and ESA; and Second United Nations International Conference on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology: Challenges and Opportunities, organized in cooperation with the Government of the United States of America.

14. In 1998, the following training course, workshops, conferences, symposium, seminar and meetings are planned:

(a) The Eighth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators;

(b) The United Nations/ESA Regional Meeting on Space Technology and Applications for Development (with emphasis on microwave remote sensing applications and including preparations for the UNISPACE III Conference), to be held in Malaysia;

(c) The United Nations Regional Conference for Decision Makers on Space Technology Development (including preparations for the UNISPACE III Conference), to be held in Africa;

(d) The United Nations Regional Meeting on Space Technology and Applications for Development (with emphasis on information technology and including preparations for the UNISPACE III Conference), to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(e) The Third United Nations Regional Conference on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology, to be held in Asia;

(f) The United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space Technology and Applications for Development (including preparations for the UNISPACE III Conference), to be held at Graz, Austria;

(g) The United Nations/IAF Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Developing Countries, to be held at Melbourne, Australia;

(h) The United Nations/Austria Second Seminar on Space Futures and Human Security, to be held in the State of Tyrol, Austria.

B. Development of indigenous capability

15. In accordance with the recommendation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the development of indigenous capabilities, General Assembly resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990, in which the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the United Nations should lead an international effort to establish regional centres for space science and technology in existing national/regional educational institutions in the developing countries, and resolution 51/123, in which the Assembly once again considered it particularly urgent that the United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, the Secretariat has made significant progress in establishing regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations. The Secretariat has provided updated information on its activities concerning the regional centres in the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/660 and Add.1) and has also reported to the Committee on the latest status of this initiative.

16. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific was inaugurated in India in November 1995, and its second education programme, focusing on satellite communications, started in January 1997. Participation in the Governing Board of the Centre and in its activities is open to Member States of the region, and in due course and upon approval by the Governing Board, the Centre would grow into a network of nodes enabling it to fully utilize the resources and potential of the region.

17. As for the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, its host countries, Brazil and Mexico, signed in March 1997 an agreement establishing the Centre. Regarding the region of Africa, Morocco, for French-speaking African countries, and Nigeria, for English-speaking African countries, had prepared the draft agreements to establish the centres, which were circulated among countries in the region for their comments. The agreements are expected to be entered into by the countries concerned by the end of 1997.

18. In Western Asia, discussions are in progress with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic on the establishment of a regional centre for space science and technology education. In the case of eastern, central-eastern and south-eastern Europe, discussions among Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey are in progress on the establishment of a network of space science and technology education and research institutions. Experts from those countries agreed to work with the Office for Outer Space Affairs to undertake a study on the technical requirements, design, operation mechanism and funding of the network.

19. For all the regional centres for space science and technology education, a model curriculum has been developed to provide each centre with a benchmark of the academic level necessary for international recognition. The document entitled "Centres for space science and technology education: education curricula" (A/AC.105/649) was submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its 1997 session.

C. Technical advisory services

20. In paragraph 7 (g) of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should, upon request by Member States or any of the specialized agencies, be directed towards the provision or arrangements for provision of technical advisory services on space applications projects. With regard to that mandate, the Programme has provided or is providing assistance in the following areas:

(a) In collaboration with ESA and the Department for Development Support and Management Services, in identifying and implementing support mechanisms to enable scientists from Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean to receive and utilize data from the European Remote Sensing Satellite of ESA;

(b) To the Government of Uruguay, in its follow-up, as pro tempore secretariat, of the recommendations of the Third Space Conference of the Americas;

(c) To the Government of the Republic of Korea, in the growth and operation of the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council (see para. 23 below);

(d) In collaboration with ESA, in follow-up activities relating to the series of workshops on basic space science (details are provided in document A/AC.105/664, mentioned in para. 9 above);

(e) To the region of Africa, in implementing the project entitled "Cooperative Information Network Linking Scientists and Professionals in Africa (COPINE)", which would establish an efficient communication network among African and European professionals and scientists at national, continental and intercontinental levels, and would allow for the exchange of valuable information on health care, agriculture, education, science and technology, and the management and monitoring of natural resources and environment;

(f) In collaboration with interested organizations within the United Nations system in elaborating an inter-agency project proposal on a satellite-based disaster-warning broadcasting system for rural and remote communities of small island developing States, particularly in Asia and the Pacific and in the Caribbean;

(g) To the region of Africa, in implementing follow-up actions within the framework of the Pretoria Memorandum on Space Technology for Africa, which was adopted by the Second United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa (see para. 26 below).

D. Long-term fellowships

21. In promoting the development of indigenous capability, five long-term fellowships will be awarded for the in-depth training of individuals from developing countries in the areas of space antennas and propagation; communications systems; remote sensing information systems; and remote sensing instrumentation. ESA has renewed its offer of five fellowships for the 1997-1998 period.

E. Regional mechanisms of cooperation

22. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/123, the Secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen the regional mechanisms of cooperation in carrying out various activities in the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

23. The efforts of the Programme made through its advisory service to the Government of the Republic of Korea resulted in the rapid growth and operation

of the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council, which aims at promoting cooperation and harmonization in the development and utilization of satellite communications in the region. At its conference in November 1996, the Council placed special emphasis on the contribution of satellite technology to global information infrastructure. As of June 1997, membership of the Council had grown to 60 and had spread from the Asia-Pacific geographical area to Europe and North America.

24. The establishment of regional centres for space science and technology education, the primary goal of which is to enhance the academic and professional capabilities as well as the technical infrastructure in space science and technology in the institutions in developing countries in each region, is also viewed as being very much a part of the Secretariat's effort to strengthen mechanisms of regional cooperation. Once established, each centre would be able to expand and become part of a network that could cover specific programme elements in established institutions related to space technology in each region.

25. The follow-up activities to the workshops on basic space science (see para. 20 (d) above) also resulted in the enhancement of regional cooperation. The assistance provided to the Governments of Colombia, Egypt, Honduras and Sri Lanka in developing facilities required for activities in astronomy and planetary exploration contributed to the development of international astronomical observatory networks in Western Asia, Central America, South America and Asia.

26. The Second United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa, organized by the Programme in South Africa in November 1996, adopted the Pretoria Memorandum on Space Technology in Africa. The Pretoria Memorandum identified priority needs of the region that could be addressed by using space technology, and specified actions to be taken at the national and regional levels in order to take advantage of the usefulness of space science and technology in the economic and social development of the region.

27. The Programme also contributes to the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Space Conference of the Americas, which adopted the Punta del Este Declaration (A/51/682, annex). The Declaration reaffirms the commitment of States in the Americas to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The Conference adopted a plan of action, aimed at promoting and strengthening multilateral cooperation programmes in the region.

VI. INTERNATIONAL SPACE INFORMATION SERVICE

28. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly decided to establish an International Space Information Service, consisting initially of a directory of sources of information and data services to provide direction, upon request, to accessible data banks and information sources.

29. With regard to that mandate, the International Space Information Service published Highlights in Space (A/AC.105/654), based on annual reports prepared by COSPAR and IAF, including a submission by the International Institute of

Space Law (IISL); the eighth volume of Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/650), containing selected papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the Programme in 1996; and Education, Training, Research and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications: A Directory (A/AC.105/671).

30. Further progress has been made to augment the International Space Information Service through the development of a limited database capability and the home page on the Internet. The home page of the Office for Outer Space Affairs currently contains information on all the space-related legal instruments adopted by the General Assembly, information on the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, an overview of the Programme on Space Applications, space-related information submitted by Member States, and a "frequently-asked questions" page where common questions relating to the United Nations and outer space are answered. In the light of the above, the Secretariat is continuing to cooperate with the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and the German space agency in establishing a CEOS Information Locator Service, the prime function of which is to assist users in developing countries to locate and access the sources of information on Earth observation data, projects and services.

VII. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

31. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly appealed to all Governments to make voluntary contributions, either in money or in kind, towards carrying out the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In his note verbale dated 11 March 1983, the Secretary-General brought that paragraph to the attention of Member States, particularly with respect to the newly mandated and expanded activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Member States and intergovernmental organizations that have responded to this appeal since the fifty-first session of the Assembly have been mentioned under appropriate headings in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

32. Following the recommendation of the Committee in 1993 to the General Assembly that it should increase the budget allocation for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications so that the Programme would be able to implement more fully the recommendations of the Conference, the Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, had approved an additional budget allocation for the Programme for the biennium 1994-1995. However, the budget reductions during the current biennium led to the reduced budget allocation for the Programme and the curtailment and postponement of some of its mandatory activities. The Committee at its 1997 session took note of the disappointment expressed by representatives of developing countries at the lack of financial resources available to fully implement the recommendations of the Conference.

VIII. THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

33. In paragraph 28 of its resolution 51/123, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that a special session of the Committee (UNISPACE III), open to all States Members of the United Nations, should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to act as the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to act as the executive secretariat. The Assembly also requested the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee to carry out the tasks entrusted to them in the report of the Committee on its thirty-ninth session[1] and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in the preparatory work for UNISPACE III.

34. The Advisory Committee, through the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, carried out the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly. The Working Group recommended that the UNISPACE III Conference, a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, be held at the United Nations Office at Vienna in July 1999. The Working Group also made recommendations concerning the objectives, participants, provisional annotated agenda, financial aspects and additional components of the UNISPACE III Conference. The Subcommittee noted that the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/672, annex II) provided the basis for the Committee, in its role as the Preparatory Committee, to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Assembly. The Subcommittee, in its role as the Advisory Committee, also made a recommendation concerning the duration and pattern of meetings that would apply to the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during 1999. The deliberations in the Advisory Committee are reflected in the report of the Subcommittee on its thirty-fourth session (A/AC.105/672, paras. 156-165).

35. The Preparatory Committee considered the matter and endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Subcommittee and the Advisory Committee. The Preparatory Committee made a number of recommendations, including those relating to the preparation of a draft report of the Conference and background papers, the theme of the Conference, organization of regional preparatory meetings, participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and private industry and financial aspects of the Conference. The Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the executive secretariat for the Conference, was requested to prepare, in time for the 1998 session of the Advisory Committee, an initial draft of the report of the Conference and an indicative schedule of events to be held prior to and during the Conference. The Office was also requested to prepare, in time for the consideration by Governments for their preparation of national papers, background papers for the Conference, as listed in the proposal made by the Office (A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.2). The recommendations of the Preparatory Committee are contained in paragraphs 150 to 161 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its fortieth session.[2]

Notes

[1] See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20).

[3] Ibid., Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/51/20).

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Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the strengthening of the role of the Organization

Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 51/208 of 17 December 1996 entitled "Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions".

2. In paragraphs 4 to 8 and 10 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the competent units within the Secretariat that he designated to carry out the functions stipulated in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/51 of 11 December 1995 develop the capacity and modalities for providing better information and early assessments for the Security Council and its organs, at their request, about actual or potential effects of sanctions on third States which invoke Article 50 of the Charter; such assessments should, as appropriate, identify specific problems and needs of those States and suggest specific ways and means for their alleviation to be included in the recommendations of the Council and appeals by the Secretary-General to the donor community for assistance to the adversely affected States;

(b) Also requested the Secretary-General to continue, on the basis of the work already done, efforts with a view to developing a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, and to utilize for that purpose all the expertise available throughout the United Nations system, including that of the international financial and trade institutions; that methodology, upon appropriate approval, should be made available to interested States that might wish to use it in preparing the data to annex to their applications under Article 50, as well as to the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and the donor community for use in considering requests for assistance;

(c) Further requested the Secretary-General to continue, on a regular basis, to collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions and to initiate action to explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States, *inter alia*, through cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations inside and outside the United Nations system;

(d) Reaffirmed the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States;

(e) Invited the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other international organizations, regional organizations and Member States to continue to address more specifically and directly, where appropriate, special economic problems of third States affected by sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter and, for that purpose, to consider improving procedures for consultations to maintain a constructive dialogue with such States, including through regular and frequent meetings as well as, where appropriate, special meetings between the affected third States and the donor community, with the participation of United Nations agencies and other international organizations;

(f) Requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

3. The present report is prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 51/208.

II. Appropriate arrangements in the Secretariat for providing better information and early assessment for the Security Council and its organs about the actual or potential effects of sanctions on third States which invoke Article 50 of the Charter

4. The Secretary-General has taken due note of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 51/208, whereby he was requested by the Assembly to ensure that the competent units within the Secretariat designated by him to carry out the functions mentioned in paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 50/51[1] develop the capacities and modalities for providing better information and early assessments for the Security Council and its organs, at their request, about actual or potential effects of sanctions on third States which invoke Article 50 of the Charter.

5. In this connection, the Secretary-General reaffirms that the arrangements that were put in place in 1996 and reflected in paragraphs 4 to 11 of his previous report on the matter (A/51/317), continue to apply. The arrangements made in the Secretariat in this regard may be summarized as follows:

(a) The Department of Political Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs,[2] would be responsible for carrying out the tasks set out in paragraph 3 (a)[3] of General Assembly resolution 50/51, namely, collating, assessing and analysing information, at the request of the Security Council and its organs, on the effects of sanctions regimes in third States which are or may be specially affected by the implementation of sanctions and the resulting needs of such States, and keeping the Security Council and its organs informed;

(b) The Department of Political Affairs would also be responsible for the tasks contemplated in paragraph 3 (b) of the resolution, namely, providing advice to the Security Council and its organs at their request on specific needs or problems of those third States and presenting possible options so that, while maintaining the effectiveness of the sanctions regimes, appropriate adjustments may be made to the administration of the regime or the regime itself with a view to mitigating the adverse effects on such States;

(c) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs would implement the tasks referred to in paragraph 3 (c) of the resolution, namely, collating and coordinating information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions and making such information officially available to the interested Member States;

(d) The tasks under paragraph 3 (d) of the resolution, namely, the exploration of innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States through cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations inside and outside the United Nations system, would be the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

(e) It should be noted that since the above arrangement was based on "existing resources", the overall budgetary resources currently available to the departments concerned would have to be maintained in the future. Furthermore, in connection with the performance of certain functions, the arrangement was also relying on the availability of a number of staff relieved from the performance of other functions as a result of the suspension by the Security Council of specific sanctions regimes;

(f) It is also understood that this distribution of primary responsibilities did not preclude further cooperation between the relevant departments, as appropriate, and that the setting in motion of the functions contemplated in several subparagraphs of paragraph 3 of resolution 50/51 was dependent on a request either by the Security Council, its organs or by interested Member States. In this connection, the Secretary-General notes that, while the Secretariat is ready to put the above-mentioned arrangement into operation, no request to that effect has yet been received.

III. Developing a possible methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of the implementation of preventive or enforcement measures

6. With a view to assisting the Secretary-General to develop a possible methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, the Secretary-General invited the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide him with ideas and suggestions on how best to develop and prepare such a methodology.[4] In response, the executive heads or designated representatives of those organizations indicated that they were well aware of and fully shared the concern of the United Nations regarding the special economic problems of neighbouring and other third States affected by the implementation of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. In this connection, they confirmed, either explicitly or implicitly, that, at present, there was no uniform and internationally recognized methodology for identifying and assessing actual or potential consequences incurred by third States as a result of such preventive or enforcement measures. Therefore, they took due note of and acknowledged the efforts by the United Nations Secretariat to develop and formulate, based on practical experiences in the application of Article 50 of the Charter, particularly in the cases of sanctions imposed on Iraq and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), a set of general principles or criteria for evaluating, on a more standardized, comparable and acceptable basis, the effects of sanctions on third States (A/48/573-S/26705, paras. 70-81, and A/51/317, paras. 16-34). In principle, there is general

agreement that an accurate and transparent impact assessment, based on a common approach to or understanding of the issues involved, is essential both to design the appropriate domestic policy response and to seek adequate external assistance in coping with the side effects of sanctions.

7. The World Bank expressed the view that it might be difficult to construct a general methodology to evaluate the impact of sanctions on neighbouring States. Experience shows that there are many channels along which foreign trade and local commerce can flow, and in each country there has developed a different mechanism to adapt to sanctions applied to a neighbouring State, particularly after the initial impact of the imposition of sanctions. Just as evaluation is different in each circumstance, country differences and differences in circumstances are very large variables that must be taken into account. Nevertheless, the World Bank indicated that it appreciated the importance of developing a better understanding in forums such as the United Nations of evaluating sanctions-related economic impacts, and that the Bank staff would be willing to discuss individual country situations as background for improving information and reviewing individual cases.

8. Despite the World Bank's view that it would be difficult to develop a general methodology for the task at hand, the Bank itself and several other international financial and trade institutions provided some general comments on the framework described in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/51/317, paras. 16-34). Thus, the World Bank stated that the analytical framework proposed in the above-mentioned report seemed appropriate to the Bank. The Bank noted that the important question would be to see how an economy adjusted to the sanctions imposed on a partner, in terms of flows of goods, people and capital. In some cases it might prove easy for countries to shift their trade to other partners, while in others it would be difficult. The Bank indicated the desirability of quantifying the welfare losses during the transition and also compare the new State (after transition) with the pre-sanction situation. While the analytical approach was clear, it would be difficult in practice to estimate these losses. The Bank agreed with the point that good macroeconomic data would be essential to any serious effort to measure the effects of sanctions on third parties.

9. The International Monetary Fund forwarded a paper entitled "Impact of implementing United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)".[5] Pursuant to the request of the United Nations for the Fund's assistance in the matter, the paper contained an assessment of the affected countries' estimates of the impact of their implementation of the sanctions. The paper also included a discussion of some relevant methodological issues. The contents of this paper had already been fully taken into account by the Secretary-General when the 1996 report was prepared (A/51/317, paras. 16-34).

10. It may, however, be useful to recall that methodological considerations identified and discussed, both in the Fund's paper and in the Secretary-General's report, included the following points: (a) estimating the impact of sanctions requires making the distinction between the narrow effects of the application of sanctions and the broader effects of economic disruption caused by other events (A/51/317, para. 19); (b) while a complete analysis should seek to assess the overall welfare implications of the imposition of sanctions, data limitations and methodological difficulties (e.g., the risk of double-counting) may require an assessment to focus primarily on the balance-of-payments impact of sanctions and associated external financing needs of an affected country (ibid., para. 26); (c) conceptually, only incremental costs arising from the implementation of sanctions (e.g., only the additional cost of obtaining replacement imports from other sources, rather than the full value of imports that can no longer be obtained from the sanctioned country) should be included in the estimates (para. 28); (d) while detailed analysis at the enterprise level may be useful in identifying and assessing the impact of sanctions on some balance-of-payments items, their consistency with broad aggregate estimates should be checked (para. 30); (e) in principle, estimates should cover both the direct, first round impact of sanctions (i.e., income forgone and additional costs incurred as a result of terminated trade in goods and services and suspended financial transfers) and the indirect, second round effects such as the reduction of imported inputs following the decline of exports or output (para. 27); (f) while all affected current-account items should be included in the estimate of the balance-of-payments impact of sanctions, the inclusion of capital-account items may not always be warranted as they are often linked to current-account transactions (para. 29). In addition, the report of the Secretary-General elaborated on some other issues related to the general conceptual framework (paras. 18, 20 and 21), categories and types of incurred losses and costs (paras. 22-25), application of global econometric models (para. 32) and statistical support (para. 33).

11. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reiterated and supported several points made in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/51/317, paras. 16, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 32). In particular, it suggested that a time series model was perhaps the most

accurate tool, which should assist in examining and/or estimating the impact of losing an export market. UNCTAD also discussed the need to examine the composition of the industry in question and the position of an individual firm affected by sanctions, including its market share of the affected industry and the industry's share in the firm's revenues, as well as the implications of the quantitative analysis of such variables on assistance or compensation policies.

12. In the light of the above comments and observations from the competent organizations in this field, it is proposed that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should continue its efforts, on the basis of the work already done, with a view to developing a possible methodology for assessing the consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures. For this purpose, and in order to ensure a broad-based origin and application of such a methodology, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should convene an ad hoc expert group meeting on the subject in the first half of 1998, with the participation of both internationally renowned experts in the area and representatives of the relevant organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system, particularly the international financial and trade institutions. The outcome of the expert group meeting (possibly, in the form of methodological or technical guidelines) should then be submitted for the consideration of Member States, whose political support both at the United Nations and in the governing bodies of the agencies concerned would be essential for universal acceptability, and effective application of such guidelines. Upon appropriate approval, the methodology should be made available to interested States, which may wish to use it in preparing the data to be annexed to their applications for international assistance under Article 50 of the Charter, as well as to the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and the donor community for use in considering requests for assistance.

IV. Coordination of information about international assistance available to third States, in cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations inside and outside the United Nations system

13. With a view to implementing paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 51/208, the Secretary-General sought the assistance of relevant institutions and organizations inside and outside the United Nations system[6] in order to seek their cooperation in collecting and coordinating information about international economic assistance available to affected third States and to explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to those States. These organizations and institutions, both inside and outside the United Nations system, reiterated their awareness and concern about the question of special economic and other consequences encountered by third States as a result of the implementation of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. A number of organizations reported on assistance made available to third States, and provided suggestions on possible innovative and practical measures to continue a constructive dialogue with affected third States for speedy consultations on assistance to them.

14. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stated that it continues to collaborate in the provision of assistance to third States affected by sanctions, and to maintain a dialogue with all countries to which resolution 51/208 applies. Moreover, through its support to the resident coordinator system, FAO collaborates closely with other development organizations and entities both within and outside the United Nations system in efforts aimed at alleviating the negative effects of sanctions to third States.

15. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that, in the initial stages of the Gulf crisis, it was instrumental in facilitating the provision of health-care services to populations of third States who were in transit through Jordan (from Iraq and Kuwait). WHO also appealed to donors to provide medicines and financial assistance in caring for more than 800,000 people in Jordan during the first two weeks of the crisis, and was also instrumental in the coordination of activities in alerting donors of the need for financial resources and donations in-kind for the maintenance of stocks of medicines and medical supplies. A similar role was played by WHO during the crisis that arose as a result of the movements of the Iraqi Kurdish population in March 1991 to the borders of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

16. WHO observed that while the negative health effects arising from the imposition of sanctions on Iraq are still affecting some third States in the Middle East, the impact of sanctions on other countries appears to be negligible. In the case of the Gulf crisis, there is still a ripple effect throughout the neighbouring countries of the area.

17. IMF indicated that it has provided policy advice and made financial assistance available under its various facilities in support of policies aimed at addressing some of the difficulties of the concerned countries. In the case of third States affected by sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Fund pointed out that all of the eight third countries that invoked Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations made use of the Fund's financial assistance in the period between 1992 and 1996. This assistance was provided either under a standby arrangement from the Systemic Transformation Facility (STF) or, as in the case of low-income countries, from the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF).

18. The Fund also observed that it provided technical support for efforts to assist those States. Such support included an assessment paper on the estimates submitted by third States of the costs of implementing the sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). In addition, the Fund, in collaboration with the World Bank, provided technical and analytical support to the Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group, established to assist certain affected States.

19. Moreover, the Fund, in considering the needs of third States arising from negative economic consequences attributable to the implementation of sanctions, uses existing credit facilities within the Fund that provide flexibility to respond to the financing needs of individual members. In addition to facilities related to countries with a Fund arrangement, other facilities of the Fund include the participation of IMF in consultative groups and other donor meetings, and regular consultations with all members as part of the surveillance activities under article IV of the IMF Articles of Agreement. For a third State that has been affected by the implementation of sanctions but that does not currently have a Fund arrangement, it is therefore possible to have regular consultations with the Fund under those other facilities with a view to identifying solutions for its economic difficulties related to the implementation of sanctions.

20. With regard to improved consultation procedures, the Fund reported that it strives to make its surveillance activities mentioned above more continuous, and to further improve its focus, including regional issues. The Fund envisages that these efforts will be continued in the future.

21. With regard to postal services, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) referred to the situation of postal administrations of third States adversely affected whenever the sanctioned country is a transit route for postal material. Such adverse effects may occur not only whenever specific postal material is the subject of sanctions, but also when air traffic to a sanctioned State is interrupted or suspended. In the case of sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), negative consequences have been experienced by the postal administration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. However, while the suspension and/or interruption of international ocean and surface connection may cause adverse situations for postal services, they are generally of a less serious impact than in situations arising from the interruption of air traffic. The efforts of UPU to minimize those negative effects include the dissemination of information on new air, surface or maritime linkages used by postal administrations with the expectation that those countries affected may find them useful.

22. UPU also referred to the case of postal administrations of third States that do not receive payment for distribution of postal material addressed to countries directly affected by sanctions. This may arise whenever the latter's assets are embargoed and/or its exports reduced. In general, developing countries are usually the most affected in such situations, particularly since they normally have a greater amount of incoming postal material that needs to be distributed.

23. The United Nations Development Programme continued to provide assistance to improve alternative land routes in connection with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) with a view to minimizing the adverse impact of sanctions on neighbouring States. Accordingly, work was completed along the border of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the port of Durres. (The work, however, sustained heavy damage during the recent crisis in Albania.) Under the UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) country cooperation framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina, assistance is focused on three areas: (a) policy and advisory services; (b) integrated, multisectoral, area-based development projects; and (c) sectoral assistance projects. More than $24.8 million has been programmed for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

24. With regard to Croatia, under the UNDP/UNFPA country cooperation framework, UNDP assistance includes a multisectoral area development project to meet the needs in the areas of employment, production, agriculture, health and community infrastructure, and another similar project of $2 million, contributed by the Government of Belgium, is currently being formulated.

25. UNCTAD stated that it stands ready to provide technical assistance to affected third States and to participate

in related procedures for further consultations on the provision of assistance to them.

26. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) considered that the long-term benefits of sanctions do not always outweigh the immediate costs to children. UNICEF, therefore, advocates that an assessment of the impact of sanctions on children in third States be required and effectively ensured at the time sanctions are adopted, and be continued thereafter on an ongoing basis until the sanctions are lifted. UNICEF considers this to be consistent with the viewpoint of the Machel study on the impact of armed conflict on children (A/51/306). Within this context, UNICEF suggested that the following measures be considered in the assessment of the impact of sanctions on children in third States:

(a) Undertaking a child impact assessment that considers humanitarian child-focused exemptions and efforts to ensure the enjoyment of children's rights, including health and nutrition;

(b) Monitoring the humanitarian impact of sanctions and its adjustment in cases of undue negative impact on children;

(c) Preventing the endangering of the lives of children and other vulnerable groups of population.

27. The World Food Programme (WFP) indicated that it has undertaken a number of activities in support of third States, although they may not have been directly related to the special economic problems of those States. For example, WFP procures in Turkey the majority of food aid to assist Iraq, and also uses transport facilities available in the region for mobilizing food aid. In the case of Jordan, WFP has utilized, where relevant, the port of Aqaba in its activities related to food distribution. Within the context of its food-for-work programme for rural development, WFP has continued to provide assistance to Jordan (over $3 million a year) and, as mentioned above, has carried out food-related activities involving the procurement of food in Turkey, totalling $47.6 million since 1994.

28. WFP also reported that in pursuance of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), commercial activities involving food contracts have taken place in Turkey and Jordan, as approved by the sanctions committee on the supply of commodities to Iraq. Moreover, during the current biennium 1996-1997, WFP has also provided emergency food aid to two of the eight countries that experienced economic problems arising from the application of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), namely, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where $475,000 of food assistance was provided to refugees and internally displaced persons, and Albania, where approximately $3.8 million of food assistance was provided to the population affected by the civil strife.

29. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that it continued to promote in the current biennium both local and regional procurement of supplies and services (approximately $3.7 million) within its programme related to assistance provided to third States.

30. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) indicated that, in general, it takes account of General Assembly resolutions on sanctions in the provision of assistance to countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including the former Soviet Union, and in the procurement of goods and services under Bank-financed projects. Thus, the priorities and needs of all of the Bank's member countries of Central and Eastern Europe that have indicated that they have been affected by the application of sanctions have been considered in the Bank's country strategies and operational programmes for those countries. In this context, aspects of financing available to them from other sources, both bilateral and multilateral, are also taken into account.

31. The Council of Ministers of the European Union indicated that it strongly supports the measures stipulated in General Assembly resolution 50/51 and the activities undertaken by relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including other international and regional organizations, in the provision of assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, and has also provided economic and humanitarian assistance to such States. The European Union also stressed that continuous and close attention should be given to adversely affected third States, as foreseen in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

32. A number of third States have continued to encounter economic difficulties arising from the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. With the objective of minimizing those consequences, many organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other international and regional institutions, have continued to provide development and financial assistance to affected third States. Some of the assistance provided has not taken place in direct response to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter, but has taken place within the context of regular development and humanitarian assistance programmes of various organizations.

33. With a view to enabling the organizations and institutions concerned to continue to provide assistance to

third States, and minimize therefore the effects of the application of sanctions on them, the General Assembly may wish to request the ad hoc expert group meeting, mentioned in paragraph 12 above, to also explore innovative and practical measures of assistance that could be provided by the relevant organizations both within and outside the United Nations system to the affected third States, with a view to identifying guidelines that should be considered when sanctions are imposed, and that could help to minimize their negative consequences.

V. Recent developments related to the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

34. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 51/208, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination have continued to play their respective roles in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States.

35. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly had before it a report of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (A/51/356), which was submitted under agenda item 21 (b) entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions". The report contains detailed information on bilateral and multilateral assistance provided, in 1995-1996, to the affected countries, with particular reference to the relevant activities of the World Bank, IMF, UNDP, UNCTAD and the Economic Commission for Europe, as well as the European Union and EBRD, in the fields of balance-of-payments support, transport and infrastructure development and trade and investment promotion in the Balkan region. As a new element, the report also provides information on the participation of suppliers from the neighbouring and other affected countries of the region in the international efforts (in particular, those undertaken under the auspices of the World Bank, the European Union and EBRD, as well as UNHCR and WFP) for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the crisis-stricken areas in the former Yugoslavia, thus alleviating the adverse impact on those States of the sanctions lifted under the terms of Security Council resolution 1074 (1996) of 1 October 1996.

36. In its resolution 51/30 A of 5 December 1996, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the need for a continuing concerted response from the international community to deal in a more effective manner with the special economic problems of the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions; renewed its invitation to the international financial institutions and in particular IMF, the World Bank and EBRD to consider ways and means for mobilizing and providing resources for mitigating the continuing negative impact of the consequences of the sanctions on the affected States; renewed its request to the competent organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to take into consideration the special needs of the affected States in programming their development activities; and renewed its appeal to all States to provide technical, financial and material assistance to the affected countries to mitigate the continuing adverse impact of the sanctions on their economies.

37. In response to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 51/30 A, the Secretary-General will submit to the Assembly at its fifty-second session a further report containing updated information received from States, regional organizations and the concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations system on action taken by them to alleviate the special economic problems of the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions.

38. For its part, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-seventh session held from 9 June to 3 July 1997, considered the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1996,[7] which included, in accordance with the request contained in paragraph 132 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-sixth session,[8] a chapter entitled "Assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations".

39. During the discussion, a number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the continuing work of the

Administrative Committee on Coordination in the area of assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter. They emphasized that the imposition of sanctions on some countries had resulted in adverse effects on the economies of a number of neighbouring countries, and requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to keep that issue under review. Some delegations underscored the need to adopt appropriate measures for assisting countries that had been affected by the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).[9]

40. In conclusion, the Committee took note of the information provided on assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter, and indicated its support for measures for assisting countries that had been affected by the implementation of Security Council resolutions 661 (1990) and 724 (1991). The Committee requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to keep the item on its agenda and to include it in future reports.[10]

Notes

[1] In paragraph 3 of resolution 50/51, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to ensure that the Security Council and its sanctions committees are able to carry out their work expeditiously, and to make appropriate arrangements in the relevant parts of the Secretariat, in order to carry out, in a coordinated way, the following functions:

(a) To collate, assess and analyse information, at the request of the Security Council and its organs, on the effects of sanctions regimes in third States which are or may be specially affected by the implementation of sanctions and the resulting needs of such States, and keep the Security Council and its organs informed;

(b) To provide advice to the Security Council and its organs at their request on specific needs or problems of those third States and present possible options so that, while maintaining the effectiveness of the sanctions regimes, appropriate adjustments may be made to the administration of the regime or the regime itself with a view to mitigating the adverse effects on such States;

(c) To collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions and to make it officially available to the interested Member States;

(d) To explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States through cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations inside and outside the United Nations system.

[2] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs was established by the Secretary-General in his programme for reform of the United Nations presented to the General Assembly on 15 July 1997. It is a merger of the former Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and Department for Development Support and Management Services.

[3] See note 1 above.

[4] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs prepared letters to the above-mentioned organizations and analysed their replies.

[5] The paper was prepared by the staff of the Fund and was first transmitted to the United Nations Secretariat in early 1995.

[6] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs prepared letters to 31 relevant organizations and institutions, inside and outside the United Nations system, requesting any views that they might have on the various aspects covered by paragraphs 5, 6 and 8 of General Assembly resolution 51/208 and analysed the 15 replies received.

[7] E/1997/54 and Corr.1.

[8] A/51/16 (Part I); to be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/51/16).

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/52/16), para. 324.

[10] Ibid., para. 338.